

Table of exchange rates for various countries including Abu Dhabi, Albania, Andorra, etc.

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Features

Turkey's hidden transvestites

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Interview

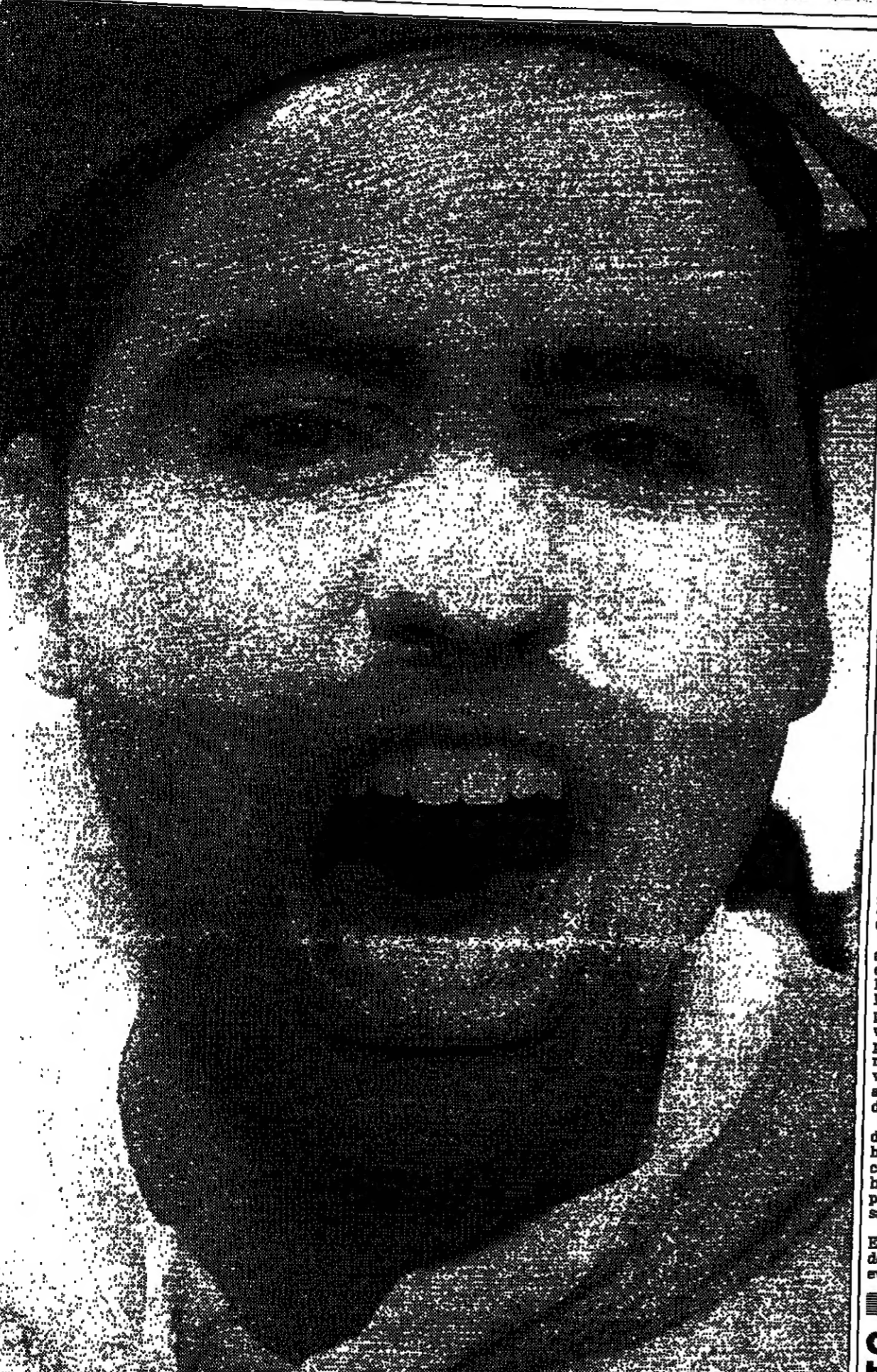
Cider with Joanna Coles

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Sport

Football kick-starts the Feelgood Factor

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A supporter gets ready to cheer on his team against England in the Euro 96 quarter-final today

Spanish plan football fiesta

The pain for Spain lies mainly in jingoistic attitudes about the game. Ed Vulliamy meets 'paella people' seeking revenge

There was only one conversation between schoolchildren throughout England at lunchtime yesterday and the night before...

other - of course I'd like Spain to win. But the tournament will lose everything if England go out...

EU threats follow agreement on lifting beef ban

Major 'will pay price' for deal

John Palmer and Michael White in Florence. JOHN MAJOR'S government was last night facing up to the high price of its beef...

The details. Britain has promised to: Slaughter about 120,000 cattle most at risk from BSE...

Church heritage plundered by criminal mastermind

Madeline Bunting Religious Affairs Editor. USING ordinance survey maps to plan the route from village to village...

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World News Boris Yeltsin's campaign team deliberately helped rival Alexander Lebed in order to drain off the Communist vote. 6

Finance A City investigator has resigned in disgust from the inquiry into suspect copper dealings by Sumitomo trader Yasuo Hamanaka. 22

Sport Jack Russell hit a century as England scored 344 in the Lord's Test, India's reply reached 83-2 at the close of the second day. 9

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2 CHRONICLE/NEWS

Irish police team arrest six men at bomb factory

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

THE Irish prime minister John Bruton yesterday revealed that weapons were being manufactured at an "IRA bomb factory" when police officers moved in on Thursday evening.

Six men were arrested at a remote farm near Clonsilla, Co Laois near the Offaly border. Two are IRA veterans — one of them a bomb-maker, the other held previously for the Ekeusund gun-running bid from Libya. A seventh man was arrested later.

The arrests followed two days of surveillance. A Garda source said they had caught an IRA "engineering team" assembling a mortar bomb. "We will not know the full extent of the haul until it has been forensically examined but we are satisfied it is highly significant," he said.

One man at the scene challenged the police with a handgun but was quickly overpowered.

Semtex and home-made explosive was recovered along with dozens of timing devices and electrical components. The farmyard was still sealed off last night as the investigation continues.

All six men were in custody last night in Dublin. They can be held for a further 24 hours before being released or charged. Mr Bruton said the arrests once more called into question the commitment of Sinn Fein and the IRA to peace.

"I understand that they were actually in the process of manufacturing arms at the time of the raid. Now that runs completely counter to the acceptance by Sinn Fein,

for example, of the Mitchell principles, one of which is that there should be no threat of force as part of all-party negotiations.

"How one can reconcile not threatening force with manufacturing bombs I don't know, and it would be important therefore to discover what is the attitude of the republican movement on the use of force at this time."

In Manchester yesterday, council leaders warned that the cost of the IRA bomb which devastated the city centre could reach \$500 million, five times the original estimate, writes Maryn Halse.

The Arndale shopping centre, which took the full force of the largest IRA bomb detonated on mainland Britain, could be closed for months and may have to be demolished.

A decision on its future will not be possible until surveys have completed assessments, and they will not be given access until potentially hazardous asbestos has been cleared, said Howard Bernstein, the council's deputy chief executive.

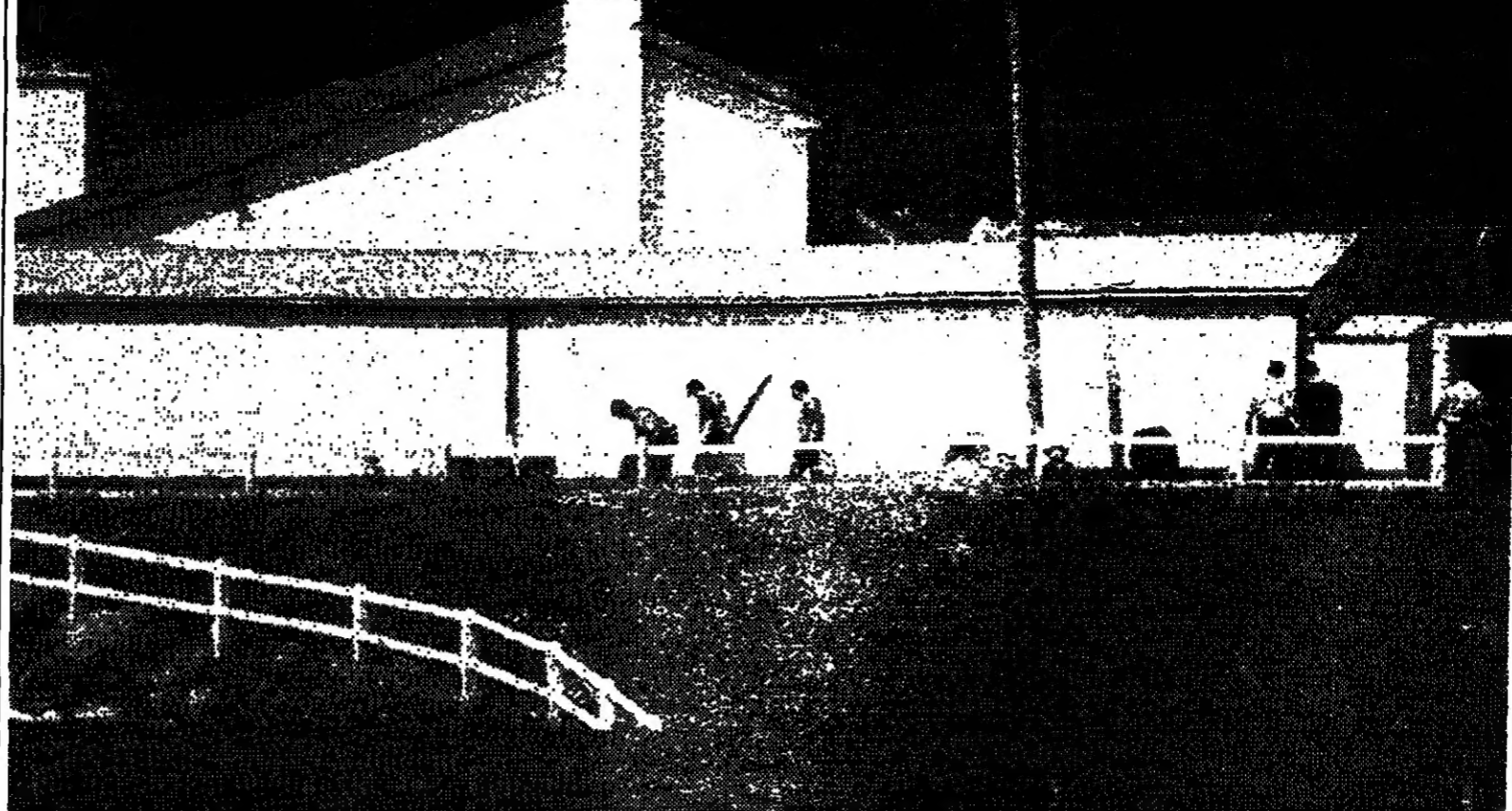
Police investigating the attack said they had received almost 2,000 calls after issuing descriptions of the two men who drove the vehicle bomb from Peterborough to Manchester. There were also descriptions of the courier who handled the £2,000 in cash used to buy the Ford van.

Bomb-damaged Manchester Cathedral will be opened today for the first time since the explosion and candles will be lit during a service for peace and reconciliation. Tomorrow, there will be a street party in Albert Square, in front of the town hall, to celebrate "Manchester back in business".



John Bruton: 'Important to discover republican view'

'The arrests call into question the commitment of Sinn Fein and the IRA to peace. I understand they were making arms at the time. That runs counter to the Mitchell principles'



The farmhouse in Co Laois, where an Irish police raid revealed a terrorist bomb factory busily producing weapons

IRA tactics keep security units guessing

Richard Norton-Taylor

SOME 30 members of IRA "active service units" are primed to mount further operations in Britain, the security and intelligence

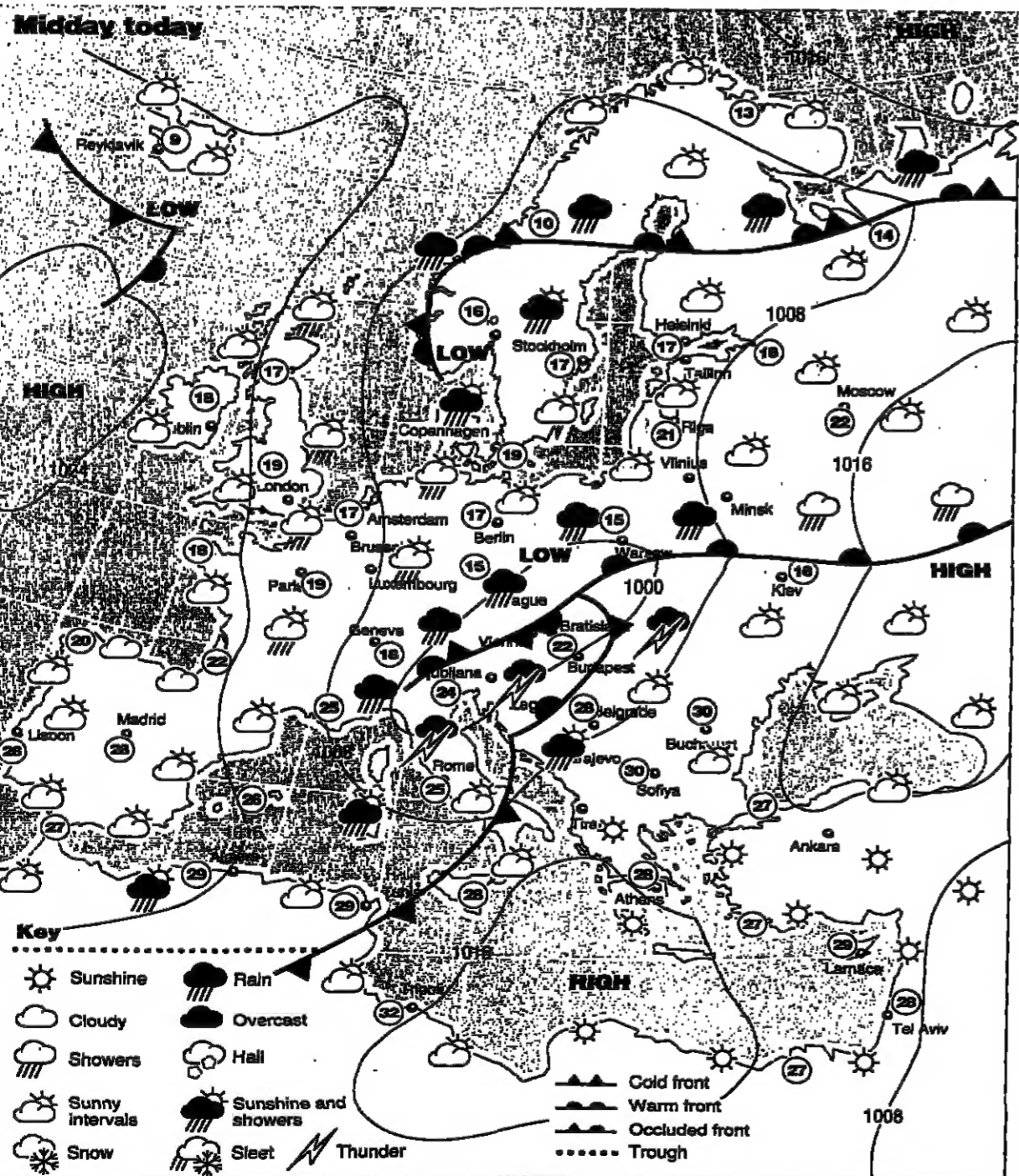
agencies estimate. But they concede they have no idea where, when — or indeed if — such attacks will take place. They believe the units were supplied with explosives and new detonating equipment during the 17-month ceasefire

when the IRA continued training in Britain and on both sides of the Irish border. Sources in the agencies also say the IRA has developed highly sophisticated counter-intelligence techniques which make effective surveillance

operations extremely difficult. The agencies wrongly described Edward O'Brien — who was killed by the bomb he was carrying on 28 June in the Aldwych, London, on February 18 — as a "clean skin," a new inexperienced

member of the IRA. They also acknowledge the failure to anticipate decisions by the IRA leadership. They did not foresee the announcement of the IRA ceasefire in August 1994, nor the end of the ceasefire in February.

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities

Table with columns for city names and weather forecasts for today, tomorrow, and Monday. Includes cities like Algiers, Amsterdam, Athens, Bern, Bonn, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin, Geneva, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Milan, Nice, Paris, Rome, Stockholm, Tunis, and Vienna.

Around the world

Table with columns for city names and weather forecasts for today, tomorrow, and Monday. Includes cities like Accra, Addis Ababa, Algiers, Amman, Ankara, Athens, Baghdad, Bamako, Beijing, Bhopal, Bogota, Brasilia, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Canberra, Caracas, Chicago, Colombo, Copenhagen, Dallas, Dar es Salaam, Delhi, Dhaka, Doha, Dublin, Frankfurt, Geneva, Harare, Havana, Helsinki, Hong Kong, Houston, Istanbul, Jakarta, Johannesburg, Kuala Lumpur, London, Lyons, Madrid, Manila, Mexico City, Miami, Moscow, Mumbai, Nairobi, New Delhi, New York, Ottawa, Paris, Rome, Seoul, Singapore, Stockholm, Taipei, Toronto, Tunis, Warsaw, Wellington, and Zurich.

European weather outlook

Scandinavia: A ridge of high pressure should keep northern Scandinavia and also most of Finland dry and bright. Elsewhere it will be cool and unsettled with scattered heavy showers and limited amounts of sun. Highs 15-19C. Lower Germany, Germany, Austria, Switzerland: The Low Countries and northern Germany will be bright but cool with sunny spells and a few light showers. Further south it will be unsettled with heavy downpours and thunderstorms, especially in the Alpine regions. Max temp ranging from 25C in south-eastern Austria to 14C on the Dutch coast. France: A northerly airflow will keep northern France rather cool with patchy cloud, sunny spells and a few light showers. South-west France should be fine and pleasantly warm with good sunny spells, but south-eastern France may catch some heavy showers and thunderstorms. Highs ranging from 17C on the north coast to 25C on the Riviera. Spain and Portugal: Mostly places will be fine and warm with some sunshiny, but it will be rather cloudy at times over central and northern regions with a small chance of a thundery shower in the north-east. Max temp 21-25C from north to south. Italy: Northern Italy will be reasonably warm and humid with sunny spells and a scattering of thundery showers. Central and southern regions should be mainly dry and bright with high clouds and lengthy spells of hazy sunshiny. Max temp 23-29C. Greece: High pressure will bring another hot and sunny day with welcome sea-breezes on the beaches. Highs 28-33C.

Television and radio — Saturday

BBC 1: 8.55am News, 9.30am News, 10.30am News, 11.30am News, 12.30pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.30am News. BBC 2: 8.55am News, 9.30am News, 10.30am News, 11.30am News, 12.30pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.30am News. Sky News: 8.55am News, 9.30am News, 10.30am News, 11.30am News, 12.30pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.30am News.

Television and radio — Sunday

BBC 1: 8.55am News, 9.30am News, 10.30am News, 11.30am News, 12.30pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.30am News. BBC 2: 8.55am News, 9.30am News, 10.30am News, 11.30am News, 12.30pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.30am News. Sky News: 8.55am News, 9.30am News, 10.30am News, 11.30am News, 12.30pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.30am News.

On the street and Asia sizeable force who international

On the street and Asia sizeable force who international. This section contains various news snippets and advertisements, including a large advertisement for an international force.

السنة 1417 هـ

Specialist selection for schools

John Carvel
Education Editor

THE Government will next week announce plans that would allow some secondary schools to become sporting academies and colleges for the performing arts. The move is part of fundamental changes to comprehensive education which would encourage more specialisation and the selection of more pupils by testing their aptitude for particular subjects at 11.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, has satisfied the Prime Minister's demand that more schools should be allowed to establish grammar school streams, signalling an important shift from the principle that all children should go to local comprehensives.

She will promise legislation to remove local authorities' right of veto over admissions policy and increase schools' control over budgets to 95 per cent of total spending.

Grant-maintained schools would be able to select up to 50 per cent of their intake by ability without needing ministerial permission. Technology colleges could select up to 30 per cent and council-maintained schools, which still provide the bulk of secondary education, could select up to 20 per cent. Schools would have a new right of appeal to the Government if local authorities stood in their way.

The main emphasis of her white paper on Tuesday will be to promote a wider variety of schooling. She will argue that parents should be able to choose between a self-governing grant-maintained school, comprehensives and colleges specialising in technology, languages, sport, music or drama.

The package goes a long way to meet John Major's desire for an education policy opening up "clear blue water" between the Conservatives and Labour, though it stops well short of his ambition to re-establish a grammar school in every town.

Mrs Shephard has beaten the more extreme ideas promoted by the Downing Street policy unit which might have restored the 11-plus exam and divided children into grammar and secondary modern schools.

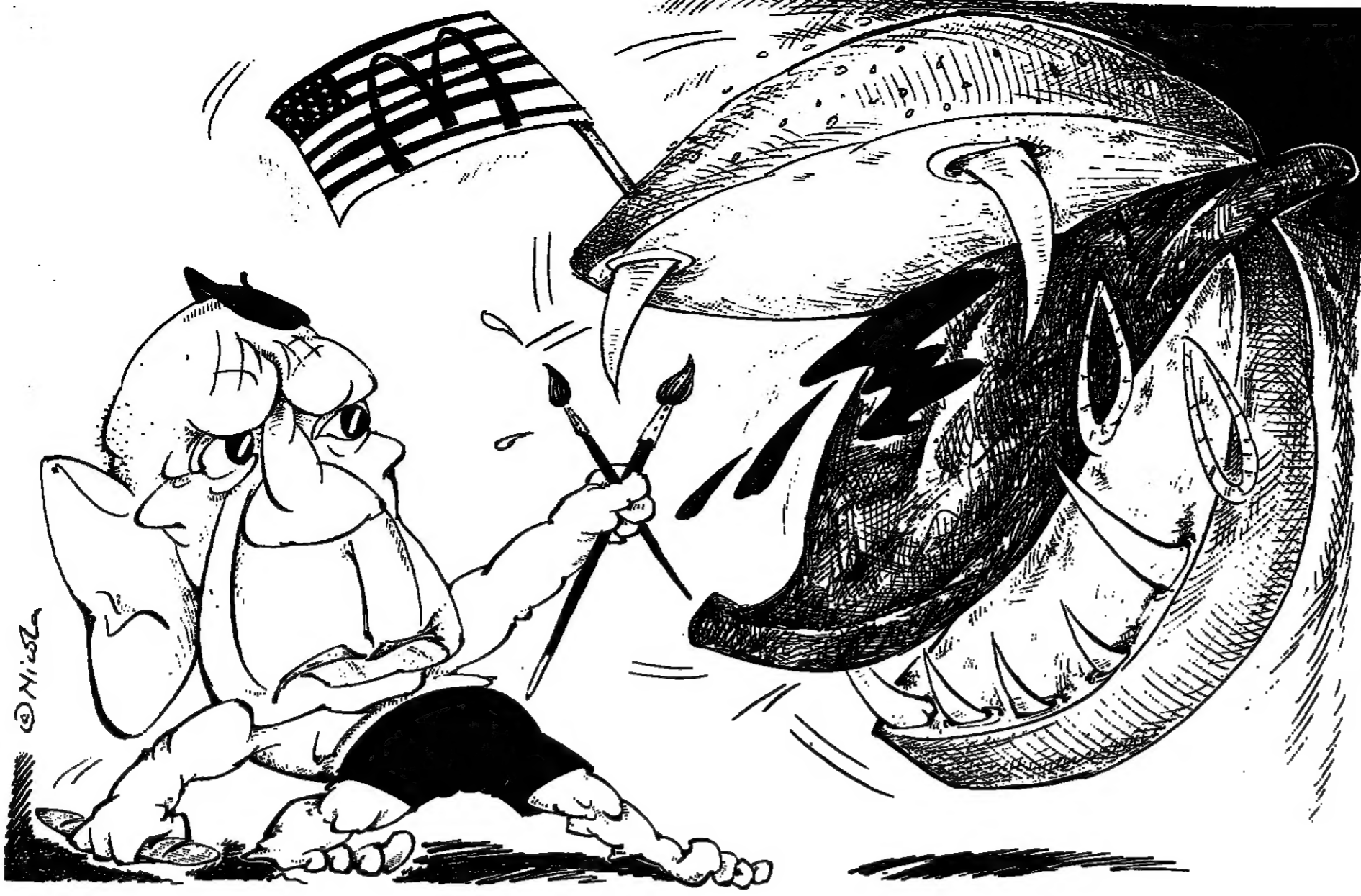
Her 64-page white paper — "Self-Governing Schools" — seeks instead to create a wider variety of schools by encouraging specialisation.

The Government would not force any comprehensive to become more selective and would not stipulate the type of testing or interview over-subscribed schools might use to control admissions.

Mrs Shephard is expected to argue that her plans would increase parental choice. Over recent years 1m comprehensive schools have converted into technology colleges, using private sector and public funding to buy extra equipment and employ more specialist teachers, working longer hours. Another 30 comprehensives have converted into specialist language colleges.

The white paper will give these colleges the opportunity to get permanent extra funding if they can meet performance targets. More comprehensives would be encouraged to specialise in a wider range of subjects and skills.

Although Mrs Shephard wants them to be able to select up to 30 per cent of their pupils, she does not expect they will try to cream off the brightest pupils.



Left Bank balks at le Big Mac

Hamburger chain threatens to vanquish Picasso's ghost

Paul Webster in Paris

SURROUNDED by shady chestnut trees that overhang a bread shop and cafe, there is a village air about the Vavin-Brea road junction where the meek of Montparnasse have taken on the might of McDonald's.

Not long ago painters such as Picasso, Soutine and Modigliani used to shop for brushes and paints in the 150-year-old Left Bank building at the junction where the artists' suppliers, Lefevre-Foinet, kept a store that served as a secret wartime warehouse to hide masterpieces from the marauding Germans.

But if Paris city council approves a building permit on Monday, the United States hamburger firm will hang up its giant M over Picasso's ghost, winning partial revenge for a rare planning setback when it was refused the go-ahead for a fast food restaurant under the Eiffel Tower.

The Vavin-Brea building was put on sale by the heirs to the artist's suppliers but no one paid much notice when a buyer promised to turn the ground floor into a bookshop, before abandoning the plan in favour of a village-style bistro. The mayor of the 15th arrondissement, Jean-Pierre Leccq, approved the change, only to find that the restaurant licence had been handed on to McDonald's.

"When I heard the news, I immediately alerted the local association which was set up in 1965 to protect the site," he said.

But Montparnasse resi-

dents, who recently ensured that the nearby Coupole cafe was renovated in identical pre-war style, are determined to do better than Hampstead dwellers who lost a 10-year battle to resist an invasion led by the white-faced Ronald the clown.

The Left Bank area has much the same literary heritage as the London suburb. Sleazebag in cultural nostalgia, the Vavin-Brea junction is within a short walk of the Montparnasse cemetery where writers including Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir are buried.

After an anti-hamburger petition was signed by 16,000 people, about 500 turned up outside the threatened building for a demonstration in which a huge McDonald-yellow banner was strung up to display the slogan: "Save our heritage."

The protest leader, Patrick Moreaud, said his followers could not understand why it was necessary to add to McDonald's French empire by a set that amounted to artistic and urban sacrilege. Another organiser, Julia Czergo, alleged that McDonald's had used subterfuge and a front man to sneak under local environmentalists' guard.

Socialist city councillors in Paris have taken up the campaign in readiness for a debate on Monday, but past attempts to stop McDonald's from taking over prime tourist sites on the Champs Elysees and settle on noble squares in Lyon and Toulouse have failed.

Despite a constant outpouring of official, elitist and gourmet contempt for the hamburger, 80 per cent of McDonald's customers in



Children at a Paris demonstration wave banners saying: 'Fed up with McDonald's' PHOTOGRAPH: REMY DE LA MALINIERE

France are French. There is nothing here like the British McLibel case, and although there have been many attempts to allege that working practices exploit part-time employees, few rows like the sacking of the Kent girl for

McFacts

- McDonald's runs more than 18,000 restaurants in 89 countries. The latest country in which it has opened is Croatia.
- The first French restaurant opened in Strasbourg in 1979, five years after its first British restaurant.
- McDonald's France employed sales last year of FF8.7 billion (£868 million).
- The company plans to have 510 restaurants in France by the end of the year — the chain's third largest total in Europe and its sixth biggest worldwide.
- In terms of sales, France is McDonald's third biggest overseas market, behind Germany and Japan, but ahead of Britain.
- It is the biggest restaurant chain in France.
- More than 25,000 staff are employed in France, of which about 90 per cent are part-timers.
- McDonald's opened 78 restaurants in France last year, creating 3,900 new jobs, many of which were paid the legal minimum wage of FF6,250 a month (about £10,000 a year).
- The company was listed on the Paris Bourse in 1988, though it has yet to seek a London listing.
- France is one of the few countries in which McDonald's sells beer.

Violence at Belfast protest

PETROL bombs and bricks were thrown at police by republican demonstrators in north Belfast last night as residents attempted to prevent an Orange Order parade going past a nationalist area, writes Owen Bowcott.

The violence came after protesters, mainly from the Catholic New Lodge district, staged a sit-down in Cliftonville Road and police moved in. At least two officers were taken to hospital. As many as 1,500 police,

many in riot gear, were then held ready in case the trouble led to clashes between loyalists and republicans.

The RUC had agreed to allow the nationalists to occupy half the road, a police spokesman said, but the demonstrators linked arms and sat down to block the street.

"Clearly the road had to be cleared," said an RUC spokesman. "Bombs were thrown, officers spat on and there was stone-throwing."

'Serb ordered man to rape his dead mother', court told

Ian Geoghegan

AMUSLIM survivor of a Bosnian prison camp told the war crimes tribunal at The Hague yesterday how a drunken Serb soldier shot dead a young man after ordering him to rape his dead mother, killed by the same soldier moments before.

Suljeman Basic, aged 46, a former lumberjack, told the United Nations war crimes trial of the Bosnian Serb Dusan Tadic how the mother, in her mid-30s, had brought food to her son in the Trojopje camp in north-west Bosnia.

He said the soldier shouted at the woman that he would kill her if she did not tell him where her husband was. He then ordered her to strip off her upper clothes.

"She was crying terribly, but she took them off," Mr Basic said. "Then I heard firing and saw her lying on her back. He shot her in the head."

"The son was screaming so much you had to close your ears. The soldier told the son to get naked so everyone could see and then said these words to him: 'Now I will make you rape your dead mother.'"

Mr Basic said prisoners standing nearby tried to retreat inside buildings but were ordered by Serbs to watch or be killed. "I heard firing and saw the boy fall next to his mother." The soldier was led away in handcuffs by other guards but was back on duty the following day, Mr Basic said.

He described why prisoners were unable to treat a fellow

inmate's gaping, maggot-infested wounds — crosses gouged on his front and back. "When we looked on his back where they had cut him there were worms, live worms, wriggling around and we tried to take them out... but the stench was so horrible you could not get near him."

Mr Basic was testifying during the seventh week of Mr Tadic's trial. Mr Tadic, aged 40, is accused of killing and maiming non-Serbs at will in three prison camps in the Prijedor region of Bosnia in 1992. He claims to be the victim of mistaken identity.

Mr Basic, who said he knew Mr Tadic before the war, said he smelled something unpleasant just outside the camp and "saw a heap of people wrapped in something, dead people... about 20

bodies. They were placed as sardines, one on top of the other. Their heads were shattered. I concluded they were not killed with firearms."

One day, Mr Basic said, he awoke to find all the men in his building crying. Taken to the complex that housed women and children, he was shown the blood-spattered bodies of two girls in their early teens lying by an outside toilet. Inside were more girls' bodies, some naked, as well as the bodies of four elderly men "slaughtered, with blood all around."

Other inmates told him groups of Serb soldiers had arrived in the night to select girls they liked. "Elderly women trying to save them were killed," he said.

The trial continues on Tuesday. — Reuters.

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Dixons

There's a great deal going on

On the streets of the city which straddles Europe and Asia an unlikely trial of strength has pitted a sizeable transvestite community against a police force whose affection for torture has earned it international notoriety.

Employees of parent company are under investigation for forgery

Driving exam contractor 'linked to training scam'

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

THE Government has awarded a £70 million contract to run Britain's first written driving test to a company half owned by a firm named in a parliamentary motion — some of whose employees are under police investigation for forging training certificates.

The contract to Drivesafe Services — set up by JHP and the Capita Group — will supervise theory exams for 1 million learner drivers over the next five years, when the system is introduced next month.

Last week a National Audit Office report revealed that Cumbria police were investigating frauds totalling £150,000 over falsifying attendance records and issuing certificates to phantom trainees.



Dale Campbell-Savours: 'astounded at contract'

members of the royal family. In the motion Mr Campbell-Savours says he "is astonished that a JHP-parented company has been awarded the contract" and accuses Mr Pitman of "launching yet another tirade of abuse and misleading statements on learning of the honourable member for Workington's concerns over JHP being awarded the contract".

Bernard Herdian, chief executive of the Driving Standards Agency, yesterday confirmed it was aware of the situation before awarding the contract.

"In our view it was irrelevant, in the sense that if employees in one part of the company are alleged to have acted fraudulently, which has still to be proved, should not mean that we do not do any business," he said.

Mr Pitman said yesterday that the employees involved

had been dismissed after they had failed to follow company procedures. "This was something we could have done without, but money has now been paid back and we have been open and upfront about it," he said.

The company had helped more than 200,000 young people and adults through business centres in 63 towns and cities, and had gained a series of contracts across Whitehall with other departments, he added.

The Audit Office investigation, triggered by a complaint against Mr Pitman by Mr Campbell-Savours, has however led to a nationwide tightening up of procedures in training. Similar scandals have been discovered in Durham, Leeds, Merseyside and south London, involving other training companies and colleges.



A postal worker on picket duty outside Mount Pleasant sorting office in central London. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GUDWIN

Man denies canal bank murder

A MAN stabbed and strangled a 16-year-old girl to death on a canal bank and then tried to let his teenage stepson take the blame, a court heard yesterday.

Fitzroy Brookes, aged 16, was charged with murdering Lynn Siddons in Derby but his trial he accused his stepfather, Michael Brookes, of the killing, said Anthony Palmer QC, prosecuting.

Fitzroy was acquitted of the murder at Nottingham crown court 18 years ago. But police investigations into the case were continued and eventually his stepfather was charged.

He is standing trial at the Old Bailey as jurors in London were less likely to have

been exposed "to the very considerable publicity" the case had received in Derby, said Mr Justice Mitchell.

Brookes, aged 51, from Cumbria, denies murder between April 2 and 10, 1978. Miss Siddons was stabbed 43 times, although most wounds were superficial.

The prosecution claims that after first ordering Fitzroy to stab the girl, Michael Brookes seized the weapon from his stepson and continued to stab her before strangling her with his hands. She was dragged into bushes and her body not found for six days.

"This is either a killing by the defendant, as we say, instigating it and involving

Fitzroy, or by Fitzroy alone," said Mr Palmer.

He said although he had told the jury of Fitzroy's acquittal, "as a matter of history, you are not bound by the verdict. You must look at this case afresh."

At his trial, Fitzroy said his stepfather was mainly responsible, the court was told. He claimed Michael Brookes had talked to him about stabbing

Miss Siddons, who had lived in the same road as them, the day before she died.

He said although he was present at the killing it was "on the instigation and under the control of the defendant".

Mr Palmer said that as they went home after the murder, Brookes "schooled" his stepson as to what he should say if questioned by police.

The trial continues.

Strike by postal workers 'solid'

Seumas Milne
Labour Editor

POSTAL workers were last night clearing millions of items of mail built up during yesterday's 24-hour stoppage by 130,000 sorting and delivery staff — the first nationwide postal strike for nearly 10 years.

Despite management

claims of significant pockets of strike-breaking, reports indicated solid support for the walkout, called in protest against Royal Mail's determination to introduce American-style "teamworking".

But although negotiations are planned for Monday between the Communication Workers' Union (CWU) and Royal Mail, there was little evidence of conciliation

which might lead to the suspension of a further stoppage next week.

Richard Dykes, Royal Mail's managing director, said the industrial action was a disgrace.

Alan Johnson, CWU joint general secretary, said he was proud of the huge support for the strike.

As well as teamworking, the dispute has focused on the

union's demands for shorter hours and an end to six-day working, while Royal Mail wants to introduce a new streamlined wages structure.

Royal Mail claimed three out of its 85 major sorting offices were operating and around 100 out of 1,500 delivery offices. But the union countered that only the Gatwick sorting office had worked, using agency labour.

Tories round on Labour's 'Hillary Clinton-in-waiting'

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

CHERRIE Booth, wife of Labour leader Tony Blair, was again in the political spotlight yesterday as the Tories seized on an article she wrote in the Times Educational Supplement as evidence that she is Britain's "Hillary Clinton-in-waiting".

Ms Booth, a school governor and a barrister specialising in local authority cases, proposed that local authorities should be given tough powers to step in early in disputes involving school governors.

An article co-written with Joanna Hill, a solicitor formerly with Berkshire county council, tackles the failures of the 1988 Education Act to make school governors fully accountable and relates to a case the two women worked on.

They propose better train-

ing for governors, a system of appraisal to remove those not up to the job, and tougher powers for authorities to intervene.

The proposals are not Labour Party policy. But party sources said David Blunkett, the shadow education secretary, was made aware of the article.

Tory Party chairman Brian Mawhinney, however, wrote to Mr Blair asking him who dictates Labour education policy, saying the proposal to return power to "leftwing local authorities" was "frightening".

Labour is acutely aware of the Conservatives' aggressive campaign to portray Ms Booth, as the political force in Mr Blair's life. The Tories are keen to push comparisons with President Clinton's wife.

A spokesman for Mr Blair said: "This is a legal article... It has nothing to do with the Labour Party."

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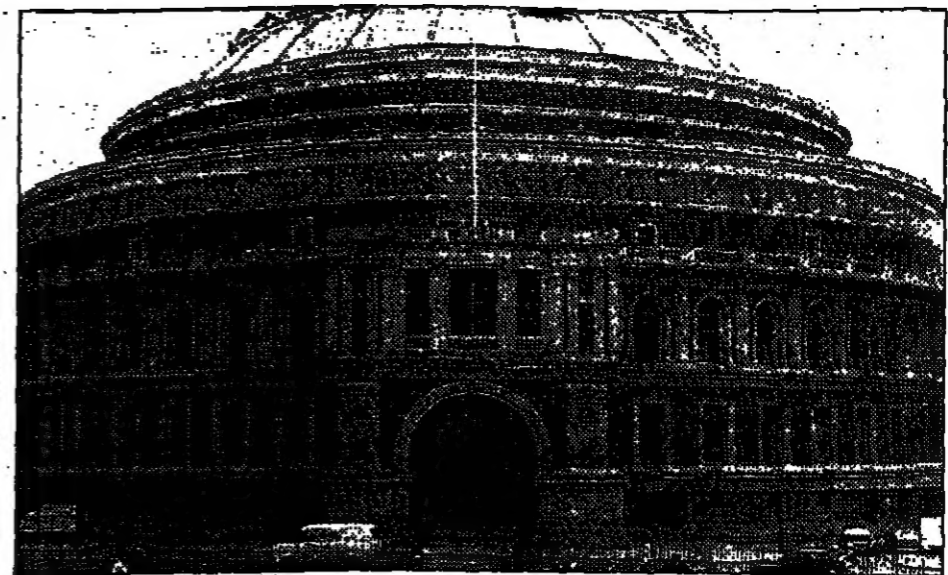
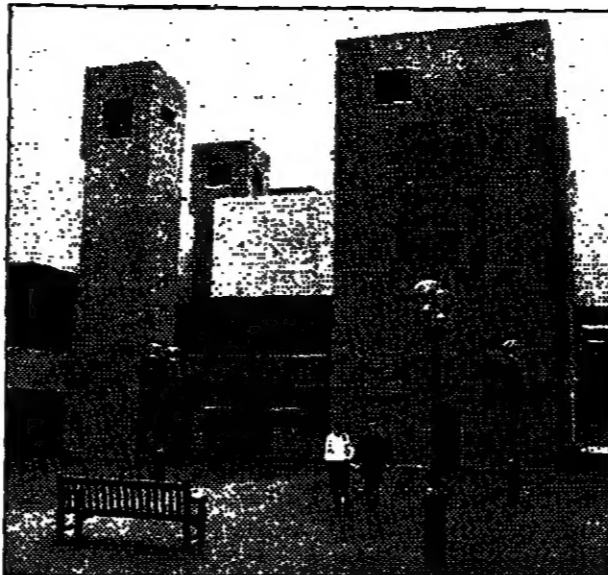
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Key financial staff depart beleaguered institution as it faces £213m redevelopment and seeks temporary abode



Royal Opera House plagued on all sides

Dan Glaister on a repertoire of problems at Covent Garden

HERE is more than one operatic version of Macbeth, and any of them might be considered a prime candidate for inclusion in the Royal Opera House's repertoire.

house is thought to be close to deciding on where to go. A site near Tower Bridge is understood to have been discounted, as has the Lyceum Theatre.

titles needed to guide the opera house through the post-Isaacs period suggested that the person most suitable might be a former senior executive with the less-than-successful London Zoo.

Thought to be suffering from stress, he took two weeks' holiday at the end of May, when his deputy, David Pilcher, filled in for him. Mr Pilcher, however, is merely serving out his time, having been made redundant.

Nearly 100 of the staff are set to lose their jobs in the autumn. It hopes to have its plans before the Arts Council, which must approve any decision, before August.

But in the end money could prove to be the opera house's weakest point. Under lottery rules, it has to match its £78 million allocation with its own backing.



Work underway (above) on redeveloping the Covent Garden site, and (top left to right) the Palladium, the Barbican Centre and the Royal Albert Hall, all tipped by the rumour mill as interim venues for Royal Opera House productions

Pantomime cow's rearguard action for school fete

AS A fundraising idea for a nursery school fete it was always going to cause a bit of a stink. Mark out a grid on a field and let a cow roam around until it drops a pat.

see if they were lucky," said Kathy Cooper, one of the organisers. But some parents and teachers at St Mary's Nursery School in Banbury, Oxfordshire, said the great Cow Pat Draw, to raise money for a new play house, might spread disease and infection.

dropping bean bags. "It was good fun, and we made £245 for the school," said Ms Cooper, who has a daughter at the nursery. Glynnis Eastwood, a nursery nurse at St Mary's, said that encouraging cows to defecate on the premises might set a bad example to the children.

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6 WORLD NEWS

Belgium leads call for rethink of veto powers

EU acts to prevent beef tactics repeat

John Palmer in Florence

MEMBER governments plan to change the rules of the European Union to prevent a repeat of the disruption tactics Britain employed against the beef ban. Speaking after the Florence summit agreed on a phasing lifting of the beef ban, the Belgian prime minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene, said that no EU government should in future be able to veto decisions on matters unrelated to the disputed issue.

There was no disguising the bitter legacy the Government's tactics have left for long-term EU relations. Speaking of the record in Florence, heads of government described the British campaign as a dangerous but ultimately failed attempt at blackmail.

Mr Dehaene — vetoed by John Major for the Commission presidency — insisted that no other country should ever be able to follow the British example.

"We must take action in the inter-governmental conference (IGC), which is reviewing the Maastricht treaty, to ensure that we have more majority votes. But where decisions have to be taken by unanimity a country should only be able to use its veto for the

dossier being discussed," he said. "If a country tries to use the veto in such a destructive way it should be subject to sanctions by the rest of the European Union."

There were signs last night that the Belgian campaign would have the support of other countries.

"Given all our experience with the British recently this is a matter which is bound to be discussed in the IGC," a spokesman for the Italian EU presidency said.

Others pointed out that the British blocking tactics had encouraged Greece to pursue its lone veto on economic aid for countries in the Mediterranean region as part of its conflict with Turkey.

Some leaders made plain their view that the British tactics would trigger a tougher stand at the IGC.

"It was a mistake for Britain to follow a policy of non-cooperation. It really is not viable for any one member state — in what is after all a community — to adopt that sort of approach," the Irish prime minister, John Bruton, said. Ireland takes over the presidency at the end of this month.

In an attempt to limit the diplomatic damage, EU leaders agreed yesterday to accelerate the negotiations for a new treaty on closer political union. The Maastricht review

conference is now expected to reach a political climax in the autumn, which could coincide with a British general election campaign.

The Florence beef negotiations meant there was no time for a big debate on the key issues holding up progress in the inter-governmental conference, so Dehaene has been asked to call a special heads of government summit in October.

In keeping with their increasingly upbeat mood about the prospects for moving to a single currency in 1999, the leaders endorsed a series of progress reports on monetary union. These include arrangements for linking currencies inside and outside the euro bloc in a new exchange rate mechanism, and a "stability pact" binding single currency members to agreed economic objectives.

Germany is still pushing for tough and automatic sanctions on EMU countries which break the terms of Maastricht. But most EU leaders are in favour of more flexible formula penalising only countries running persistent budget deficits.

After a low-key debate on unemployment, the summit is expected to give their cautious backing today to a commission plan for job creating investment in cross-border transport and other infrastructure.



Lightly toasted... Germany's Chancellor Kohl and the Dutch prime minister, Wim Kok, raise their glasses to John Major after the "beef war" came to an end with agreement reached on compromises at the Florence summit yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: VICENZO PINTO

Britain's prince of Florence crowns himself victorious

It takes stamina to grind out a beef deal, writes Michael White in Florence

JOHN MAJOR'S grueling day at the European summit in Florence yesterday underlined something Machiavelli overlooked. No matter how crafty a Florentine prince you set out to become, you don't get very far in politics without stamina.

It takes hard work to negotiate a triumphant end to the "beef war", and even more hard work to persuade the folks back home that that is what you have done. On last night's evidence, you will not be celebrating a new VE Day in 50 years' time.

Arriving late at the Britpack hotel on Thursday night, Mr Major retired around midnight, thus avoiding the fallout from reports that the Foreign Office Minister David Davis was threatening to resign.

Dawn saw Malcolm Rifkind celebrate his birthday in the radio and television studios while Mr Major drew the short straw: croissants and coffee with his hosts. Italy's Blair, his prime minister, Romano

Prodi, and the foreign minister, Lamberto Dini. Commission president Jacques Santer was also present.

They beefed about beef and agreed to let officials tweak the text of the framework agreement one more time in the hope of getting a deal by lunchtime.

British officials emerged from the first plenary session at the Medici Fortress de Basso, where the conference is being held, to report that the prime minister had given Britain's case in "measured but robust" terms.

Whether Bernard Ingham would have described a Margaret Thatcher rant in such measured terms seems doubtful. As a description of Mr Major in full flood it sounded like hype.

There were persistent rumours that the French had moral qualms about British efforts to get the beef ban lifted in third countries. When the French elite start talking about export morality it is usually time to start counting the spoons or preparing for a nuclear test in the Pacific.

At one o'clock British time the Italian presidency told the media that the beef deal was done.

Sure enough, Mr Rifkind soon emerged to utter — at 1.22 precisely — the words: "Our policy of non-cooperation ceases as of now."

Yes, the beef war was over and we had survived it. It was VE Day.

Mr Rifkind had avoided any hint of triumph — wisely, at it turned out shortly after.

There was a snag. The small print of the terms unravelled almost immediately. Before Mr Rifkind had turned his back, Euro-bridgers said the whiff in theory, South Africa could apply to buy British beef, in practice the Commission and its vets would stop such a sale on health and ethical grounds.

Mr Major, meanwhile, soldiered on towards a negotiating dinner on foreign policy and bed before David Davis changed his mind.

For light relief, they let the television cameras in to watch the signing of bilateral agreements with Chile and Uzbekistan.

Let's hope they don't fancy buying any British beef.

Pact with Lebed to defeat Communists

James Meek in Moscow

Yeltsin blocks new power transfer to head of state

BORIS YELTSIN'S election campaign team deliberately helped his supposed opponent Alexander Lebed, in an attempt to draw votes away from the Communists, a member of the Lebed camp admitted yesterday.

But he denied allegations that a deal was made between Gen Lebed and Mr Yeltsin before last Sunday's first round of voting which enabled him to take up a Kremlin post so quickly after his success — he came third — became known.

Gennady Tupikin, head of the Lebed campaign headquarters staff in Moscow, said that Mr Yeltsin's people had weighed up the relative merits of Gen Lebed and the liberal Grigory Yavlinsky as potential drainers of the Communist vote.

"They read the situation right. They carried out their own surveys and found out that Lebed had far more support than Yavlinsky. So they decided to let Lebed more favourably than Yavlinsky," Mr Tupikin said.

"They reckoned the stronger the position of our candidate, the weaker the position of the Communists. So they adopted their tactics accordingly. Perhaps as a result we found fewer obstacles in our way. But there was no deal."

In the last days of the campaign, Gen Lebed suddenly became a frequent guest on television talk shows and found access to national newspapers and the important regional media easier.

So rapidly was Gen Lebed appointed secretary of the security council after his strong election performance that he missed his own victory party, a champagne buffet organised by his campaign staff at the House of Russian-Bulgarian Friendship.

"Lebed's sudden rise to such breathtaking political prominence is the result of a well-conceived plan," said Alexei Zverev, political commentator for Moskovsky Kommunist newspaper. "He and Yeltsin must have

reached some sort of agreement before the presidential election. The outward manifestation of this was their careful avoidance of any verbal attack on each other in the campaign, particularly in the last week."

Mr Yeltsin met Gen Lebed and Mr Yavlinsky separately before the elections, but speculation at the time focused on one or both men stepping down in exchange for a government job before, not after, the first round. Since neither candidate withdrew from the race, the talks were assumed to have failed.

Particularly bitter now — though expected to back Mr Yeltsin in the end — is Mr Yavlinsky's party, Yabloko,

which feels that its candidate was stitched up all along. Mr Yavlinsky polled 7.3 per cent, half Gen Lebed's figure.

A Yabloko MP, Sergei Mitrokhin, said the Yavlinsky campaign had been almost shut out from the airwaves. In Moscow there had been a systematic campaign of harassment against people trying to put up Yavlinsky posters.

He pointed to the key role played in the Lebed campaign by a former Yeltsin aide, Alexei Golovkov. In the Lebed team helps explain why a staff dominated by former Soviet army officers was able to run such a professional campaign.

Mr Tupikin, aged 42, a retired colonel, served under Gen Lebed in Moldova. Anatoly Bui, head of the regional campaign, served under Gen Lebed in the airborne forces in Azerbaijan.

Yet they walk around in civilian shirts-sleeves with mobile phones at their hips in bright computer-filled offices and drop into their Russian speech English expressions like "direct mail" and "fundraising".

The Yeltsin camp almost outsmarted itself with its tacit support for Gen Lebed. If all the retired officers had run their campaigns as effectively as the Ivanovo branch (where Gen Lebed came first) or Yaroslavl (where he almost came ahead of Mr Yeltsin with a third of the vote) the president could have been out of the race already, or facing the general in a run-off he would probably have lost.

While accepting the role of Mr Golovkov and others as campaign "tutors", Mr Tupikin insisted he and his fellow-officers had proved themselves able democrats.

He said: "It shows officers shouldn't be seen as blinkered and unable to think for themselves. Through discipline and organisation they can organise the most difficult of tasks. Most people, especially among the intelligentsia, had strong doubts as to whether we could do it."

World news in brief

Perot conspires to upstage Republicans

HOPING to steal Republican thunder, Ross Perot announced yesterday that his Reform Party will hold its convention just as Republicans are gathering for theirs, writes Jonathan Freedland in Washington.

Supporters of the Texan billionaire will meet in Long Beach, California, on August 11 — the day before the Republicans converge on San

Diego, 100 miles away. They will listen to a day of speeches, before breaking up into a "virtual convention", nominating presidential candidates by postal vote and via the Internet.

The Reformers will reconvene in Pennsylvania on August 16 to announce their nominee, a week before the start of the Democratic convention.

Mr Perot, who polled 19 per cent when he fought for the White House in 1992, has not said he wants the Reform Party nomination.

But it is certain that if he runs he will win, if only because he controls the party apparatus. The only other candidate to have expressed an interest is the former Democratic governor of Colorado Richard Lamm.

Papal fears in Germany

The Pope arrived in Germany for a three-day visit last night amid police fears that he could face violent protests, writes Denis Staunton in Berlin.

Anti-clerical demonstrators plan to march through Berlin tomorrow and a Hamburg prostitute will be crowned Pope at a gay street festival.

Amazon monkey

A newly identified monkey, no bigger than a squirrel, has been discovered in the Amazon jungle, Brazil, by people who call it a "zip". — AP.

Rwandan killings

Suspected Hutu militiamen killed at least 15 genocide survivors in an attack in western Rwanda on a lakeside village facing Zaire, aid workers said yesterday. — Reuters.

Albanian victors

Albania's ruling Democratic Party won 132 seats, or more than 87 per cent of parliament, in a two-round general election on May 28 and June 2, state-run Radio Tirana said yesterday. — Reuters.

Striking failure

Brazilian labour unions failed to bring the country to a halt in a general strike yesterday as most shops and industry opened for business as usual. — Reuters.

Sell-offs anger Spanish unions

SPANISH union leaders reacted angrily yesterday to plans by the conservative government for sweeping privatisation of state-owned companies, writes Adela Gooch in Madrid.

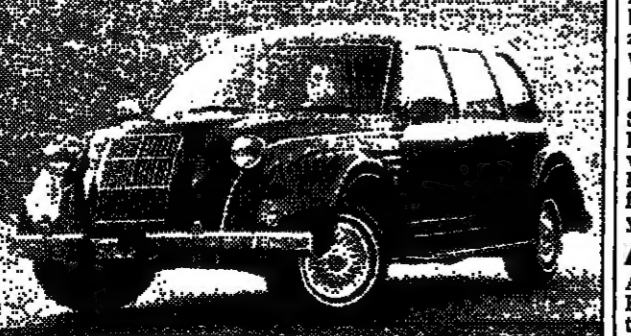
They ruled out a general strike but said there would be "individual protests".

The measures could affect up to 50 nationalised firms, ranging from Endesa, Spain's largest electricity company, to the loss-making airline Iberia. "We are even willing to sell off the finance ministry building and lease it back from the owner," a civil servant told the daily El Mundo.

The proceeds of the sales, around 600 billion pesetas (£3 billion) will go towards reducing the budget deficit.

The privatisations are the latest move in an economic liberal revolution instigated by the prime minister, José María Aznar, and his finance minister, Rodrigo Rato.

Mr Rato recently announced a first round of reforms aimed at encouraging small businesses. They included a cut in inheritance tax, simplification of the capital gains tax, and abolition of minimum fees for doctors and lawyers.



Price of nostalgia... The Toyota Classic, a newly manufactured car based on the company's first passenger coupé which came out in 1936, has gone on the market priced at £50,000

'Three strikes' law is out

CONSERVATIVES in California are in uproar over a surprise ruling by the state's supreme court overturning the "three strikes and you're out" law, writes Christopher Reed in Los Angeles.

More than 70 per cent of the voters supported the controversial legislation in a plebiscite in 1994 which forced judges to hand down sentences of 25 years to life for a third conviction. Although the two earlier convictions had to be for serious or violent crimes, the third did not.

The result has been one man jailed for life after he stole a pizza, and another after he stole two pairs of jeans. Thousands of offenders are now expected to deluge the court with appeals.

Conservatives are saying they will take the case to the US supreme court. But many conservative judges have already rebelled against mandatory sentencing. The Californian judge who wrote the decision was a conservative appointee of the Republican governor Pete Wilson.

Cyprus alert

Turkish war planes screamed low over the divided Cypriot capital Nicosia yesterday, causing alarm among Greek Cypriots. — Reuters.

Boa in car

A 6ft 7ins boa constrictor startled a mechanic when it popped its head out of a car while he was working on the sound system, El Mundo reported in Madrid. — AP.

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Arab states grasp nettle of unity

David Hirst in Cairo

THIRTEEN of the 21 Arab heads of state hold a summit today, the first in six years, in an attempt to forge a unified response to Israel's new rightwing government and the threat it poses to the Middle East peace process.

The aim of the its three main promoters — Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia — is to restore Arab cohesion and thereby send a message to Israel and the United States that unless the new Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, reverts to the ground rules — land-for-peace — on which Arab-Israeli negotiations have been based, the peace process will collapse and the region slide into a cycle of tension and violence.

Syria, chief advocate of pan-Arab action, has suggested that, while the summit will re-consecrate peace as the Arabs' strategic option, it should plan for all eventualities, including war.

Since the purpose is to win international sympathy, the summit is bound to take a conciliatory line: the furthest it is likely to go — on Syria's insistence — by way of retaliation for Israeli intransigence is a re-evaluation of the "normalisation" of relations with Israel on which some Arab states have embarked.

But other regional conflicts will loom large, potential landmines which some Arab commentators believe may blow up in the face of the conference. The main ones are the new crisis between Turkey and Syria and growing tension between Syria and Jordan.

Arabs disagree about the usefulness of the conference. Some claim that the spectacle of Arab leaders meeting only offers a short-term emotional filip. Others say that the meeting is important because Arab dissensions caused Israel's extremism and something must be done to halt it.

The summit is incomplete because one key Arab leader,

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, has not been invited. Only two Gulf rulers — Crown Prince Abdullah (now effective) in charge of Saudi Arabia, and Sheikh Isa of Bahrain — are here. The rulers of Oman, Qatar, the Emirates and Kuwait have sent lesser representatives and Colonel Gadhafi of Libya has not said whether he will come.

But the PLO and the front-line states — Syria, Jordan and Lebanon — are here at the highest level, something of an achievement after President Assad's anger at the separate deals made with Israel by Jordan's King Hussein and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

Israel and the US, disturbed by the staging of the summit, have been calling it a gratuitous escalation of tension and have urged the assembled leaders not to close the door on peace.

This has exasperated most participants, including pro-Western Egypt. Its foreign minister, Amr Moussa, said: "The Arabs cannot be expected to take steps forward while the other side steps back."

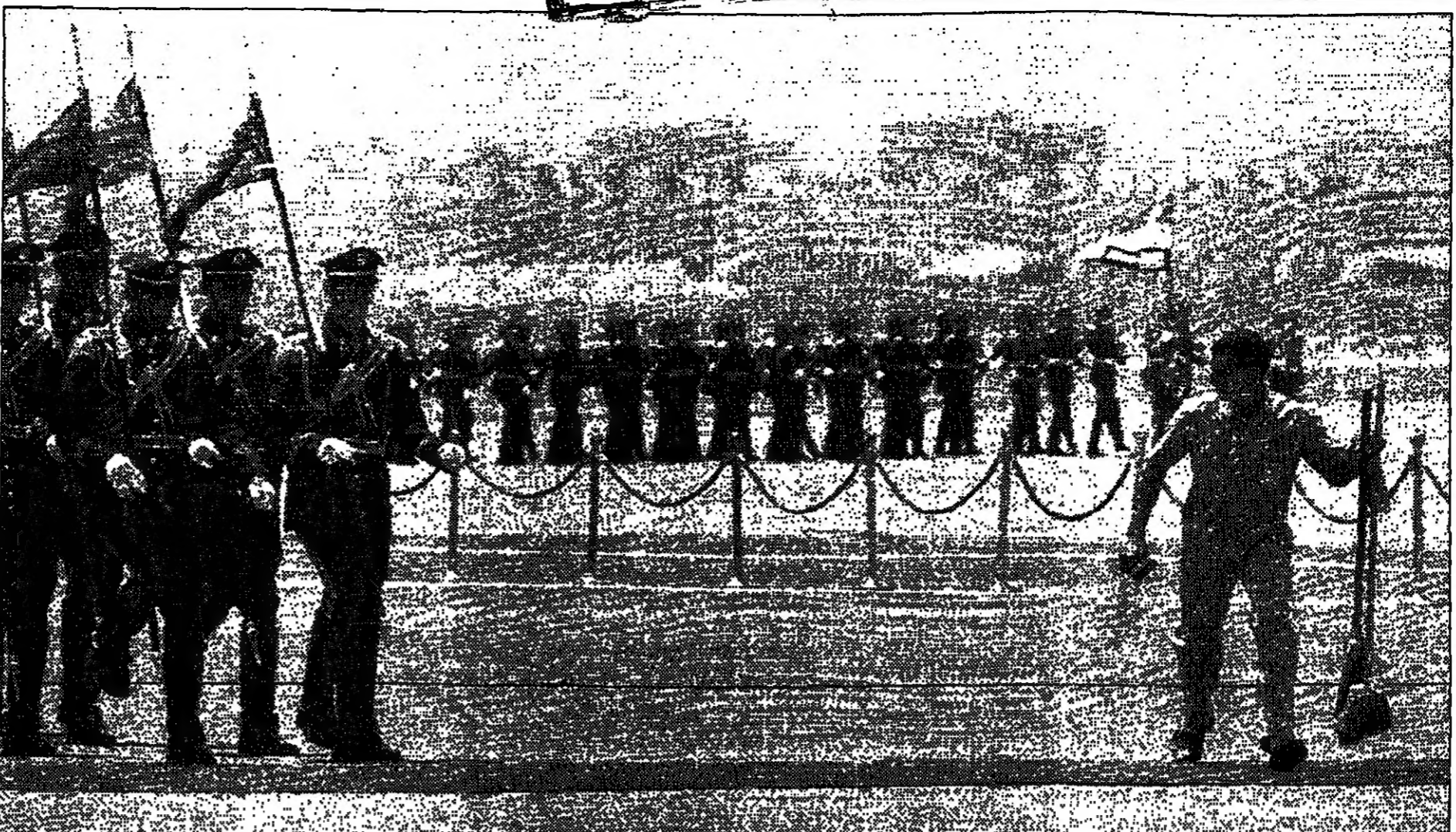
Some Arab commentators say that, although war is not an Arab option, there must be a fundamental revision of their peace strategy.

In Cairo's al-Ahram newspaper, one said that the policy of showing how Israel could gain from peace while being expected to give nothing in return had proved a fiasco. So had the reliance on the US. "It's not enough for the summit to end up re-adopting a strategy which, far from making Israel more moderate, has pushed it to the hard-line right," the commentator said.

Syria has expressed openly a fear that, although the US and Israel cannot stop the summit, they will wreck it from within, using King Hussein as their Trojan Horse. By his insistent optimism that the peace process is still on course the king is believed to have adopted their rhetoric and possibly their agenda too.

His prime minister, Abdul Karim Kabarti, arrived in Cairo saying: "We have to make peace among ourselves before we can make peace with others."

This was seen as an indication that the king is ready for a showdown over alleged Syrian terrorism and other misdemeanours that would reduce the conference to an inter-Arab slanging-match.



Off guard... An Egyptian worker scurries away as the presidential guard rehearses at Cairo airport yesterday in preparation for today's Arab summit. PHOTOGRAPH: ENRICH MARTI

Torture conference calls on Arafat to free activist

Helena Smith in Athens

AN INTERNATIONAL conference on torture in North Africa and the Middle East called on the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, yesterday to release from jail a human rights activist and critic of the self-rule administration.

Human rights advocates gathered in Athens said they would urge their governments to halt aid to the Palestinian authorities in an effort to win his release.

Delegates said Dr Eyad al-Serraj's detention and alleged torture highlighted the alarming level of abuse in Gaza and the West Bank.

The conference is looking at ways of preventing torture and treating victims.

Recently, human rights abuses in the Middle East and North Africa have spiralled as torture methods have be-

come more sophisticated. Thousands of people — often political opponents — are believed to be tortured daily.

Delegates said that beatings and burnings remained the most common abuses, but electric shocks, sleep deprivation and position abuse were rapidly gaining popularity because they were "cleaner".

"Upgraded" forms of torture had been particularly noted in Israel and Turkey.

"Modern technology has helped the regimes to act with impunity, which is perhaps the biggest problem we face today in stopping such malpractices," said Abdelaziz Bannani of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights.

With the exception of the six Gulf states and Djibouti, almost every country in the region has signed at least one international treaty outlawing torture.

Since the collapse of communism, there has been a

remarkable rise in the number of local human rights organisations, although only Israel allows them to conduct their activities unimpeded. Ironically, the activists said that torture had been exacerbated by these organisations.

Governments have poured resources into the bodies to deflect criticism of their human rights records.

"They have emerged as an extra challenge in our struggle to combat torture," said Donatella Rovera of Amnesty International's Middle East Programme.

"Instead of taking measures to prevent torture, governments have devoted huge resources to developing human rights bureaucracies, whose brief is to cover-up violations, at a very sophisticated level. In other words, they have become even more creative with their methods of obstructing and repressing human rights activists."

Pressure on Nigeria lacks substance

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

NIGERIA'S foreign minister, Tom Ikimi, faces a bruising encounter in London on Monday with Commonwealth colleagues angered by the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists.

In the first meeting since Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth, Chief Ikimi, heading a 16-man delegation, is expected to defend Nigeria's human rights record, knowing that tough action against it is unlikely.

The talks are intended to clarify prospects for the restoration of democracy, but sharp divisions in the Commonwealth's seven-member "ministerial action group" mean that its threats of enforcing progress through sanctions lack credibility.

In March Britain agreed to limited sanctions, to take effect if Nigeria failed to open a dialogue. But the Foreign Office has made it clear that downgrading diplomatic representation does not mean withdrawing the High Commissioner.

Tony Lloyd, Opposition spokesman on Africa, told Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, this week: "I have been dismayed by the lack of any positive long-term approach by the British government and by its tolerance of the most barbaric acts of the Nigerian junta."

Yesterday, in an obvious attempt to defuse criticism, the Nigerian authorities freed Gani Fahwehinmi, a lawyer and vocal critic of the regime arrested in January.

Mr Lloyd called this "a cynical ploy to allow weak-willed Commonwealth governments off the hook", adding: "The illegitimate and brutal Nigerian junta must no longer be treated with kid gloves."

Some prisoners have been released without having been charged. Those still held include the Ogoni 19, facing the same charges on which Saro-Wiwa and his colleagues were executed.

Britain and the European Union have imposed visa restrictions and an arms embargo, but, like the United States, are not prepared to contemplate an embargo on Nigerian oil. Commonwealth sources admitted it was unlikely, especially after a recent UN report gave the Abacha regime an easy ride.

"The Nigerians are riding high," said one official. "They're big and rich and strong and they've kept the rest of Africa quiet."

"The Commonwealth really wants to hear what Ikimi is going to say," if Nigeria does not satisfy the Commonwealth, it will face expulsion at the Edinburgh summit next year.

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2 000 SANDLASTER (20) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

3.25 VANCE GOLD TINKER HANDBICAP 1m £2,150
1 000 HAZARD & GIBBY (7) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 HAZARD & GIBBY (7) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

3.55 FROSTIE WINDOWS 15TH ANNUAL HANDBICAP 1m £4,250
1 000 TRAMING HERO (197) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 TRAMING HERO (197) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

4.30 LEVY ROAD HANDBICAP STAKES 1m £2,750
1 000 BIRKEN BLAIR (14) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BIRKEN BLAIR (14) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

5.00 UNTHROTTEN RACING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES £2,500
1 000 BACCHODRUM (18) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BACCHODRUM (18) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

Lingfield tonight

6.15 Hamilton Stn 7.45 Woodcock Hunt
7.15 Victoria Stn 8.45 Archeresses

6.15 YARMOUTH ANNUAL HANDBICAP 1m £2,500
1 000 LALMON (11) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 LALMON (11) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

6.45 BRIMHAM HANDBICAP 1m £2,500
1 000 BEAN WINDSOR (7) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BEAN WINDSOR (7) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

7.15 VATERLANDS HANDBICAP STAKES STYO £2,510
1 000 BEVERLY GOLD (14) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BEVERLY GOLD (14) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

7.45 BRIMHAM HANDBICAP 1m £2,500
1 000 WOODCOCK HUNT (11) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 WOODCOCK HUNT (11) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

8.15 CHATEAU HANDBICAP 1m £2,500
1 000 KEVIN COO (11) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 KEVIN COO (11) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

8.45 BOWEN HORN LIMITED STAKES STYO £2,500
1 000 PORTER GIBBY (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 PORTER GIBBY (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

Racing

Pivotal stakes claim to sprint championship

Chris Hawkins

PIVOTAL lodged his claim to the champion sprinter title when winning the King's Stand Stakes by half a length from Mind Games at Royal Ascot yesterday.

For a colt who ended last year by taking a little race at Folkestone he started at the surprisingly short price of 13/2, but Sir Mark Prescott, his trainer, certainly knows the time of day.

Prescott's normal style was to get hold of a good horse to be land a touch or two in handicap company and he confessed he had experienced "a very exciting winter when I saw Pivotal had been rated 10/1".

But the colt's owners, Chevelley Park Stud, are more concerned about making stallions than making bookmakers' squeal, so the trainer did as he was told and aimed for the top.

George Duffield had Pivotal in front on the stands side for nearly three furlongs and it was only in the final strides that Kinane tucked the colt

away until turning for home when he made a move on the outside — no missing about on the inside for this man who minimises risks.

A brush with Phantom Gold impeded progress for a stride or two and when Annus Mirabilis held Oscar Schindler's initial challenge Kinane got down to business.

When he asks serious questions he invariably gets the right response and Oscar Schindler certainly came up with the answers, battling for a half-length success.

Oliver Lehane, the winner's owner, noted his four-year-old after the hero of the film, but had to get the permission of Schindler's widow Emilie.

"I was refused at first, but money overcomes most problems," said Lehane. "But she said a fortune running amusement arcades."

"If the horse runs in the King George next month I shall invite Emilie over to see the race. I believe she lives in poverty just outside London."

Oliver Lehane says he has a bombshell at these big meetings, but he left it late this year before saddling the 66-1 shot Amfortas to lead the King Edward VII Stakes.

Amfortas was beaten in a maiden at Newbury recently, but he made all the running under a clever ride from Brett Doyle, who pinched a vital length on the home straight and led by half a length in a desperate finish from Deser Boy and Shanton.

"He'll go for the Irish Derby now and I wouldn't be surprised if he doesn't win it — he's got loads of improvement in him," said Britain, who can never be accused of fighting shy.

Dezile had not seen a racecourse before the Windsor Castle Stakes, but this was thought unlikely to stop her. Backed down to favourite, she justified the confidence with a comfortable victory.

This was the first time Michael Stoute ("I'm getting brave in my old age") had saddled a two-year-old winner first time out at the meeting.

The final day's crowd was 83,145, making a total attendance of 232,360, which is seven per cent higher than the previous record in 1988.

Ayr runners and riders

2.15 My Galaxy 3.45 Stormless
2.45 Statway 4.15 Peaceful Process
2.45 Statway 4.15 Peaceful Process
4.45 Leading Process

2.15 ANNUAL HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,400
1 000 NESTER WESTWOOD (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 NESTER WESTWOOD (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

2.45 ROMAN WARRIOR HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 BLAZING WIP W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BLAZING WIP W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

3.15 HIGH SPEED PRODUCTION HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 CONQUEST (14) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 CONQUEST (14) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

2.45 ROMAN WARRIOR HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 BLAZING WIP W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BLAZING WIP W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

2.25 ROMAN WARRIOR HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

2.55 ALEXANDER MOTORS HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

3.30 DEERY BUILDING SERVICES HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

4.00 MAID HANDBICAP HURDLE 1m £2,510
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

4.35 SHEPHERD OF NOTTINGHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEY ROLLING HANDBICAP 1m £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

5.05 KING JOHN INTERMEDIATE HURDLE 1m £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

3.45 ALLWAY HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 FAIR AMBASS (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 FAIR AMBASS (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

4.15 MILLERIAN HANDBICAP HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

4.45 DONFOOT HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 SUPERBIDE (11) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 SUPERBIDE (11) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

7.00 HOUNDSTON STAKES 1m £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

7.00 WALLACE HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

7.30 WELLSVILLE CLAIMING STAKES 1m £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

8.00 NOTTINGHAM ROYALS NORTH SOUTH SERIES HANDBICAP 1m £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

8.30 POLYVINE CATERING HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

9.00 DEERY BUILDING SERVICES HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

9.30 JOHN SANDERS MEMORIAL HANDBICAP 1m £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

Ascot with TV form

2.00 Racers 3.55 High Express
3.00 Star Place 4.10 Cupola Process
3.00 Star Place 4.40 Haverth

Colony Good to Run, 4 Decades Mileage, Dream High best up to 71.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last start.

2.00 LONDON CLUBS FINE HILL HATED STAKES STYO 71 £2,400
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

2.30 PALAN HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

3.00 BELGIAN CONDITION STAKES STYO 71 £2,510
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

3.35 LADROUSE HANDBICAP 1m £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

4.10 TREMURATE LIMITED STAKES STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

4.40 ROYAL HANDBICAP STAKES STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

5.10 CROSSLAND HANDBICAP 1m £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

6.15 YARMOUTH ANNUAL HANDBICAP 1m £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

6.45 BRIMHAM HANDBICAP 1m £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

7.15 VATERLANDS HANDBICAP STAKES STYO £2,510
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

7.45 BRIMHAM HANDBICAP 1m £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

8.15 CHATEAU HANDBICAP 1m £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

8.45 BOWEN HORN LIMITED STAKES STYO £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

9.00 DEERY BUILDING SERVICES HANDBICAP STYO 71 £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

9.30 JOHN SANDERS MEMORIAL HANDBICAP 1m £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

9.55 KING JOHN INTERMEDIATE HURDLE 1m £2,500
1 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8
2 000 BROTHER BOND (12) M W 8-11 ... 0 Defeat 8

Russell

England v India record

Wimbledon

Latest Scores and F

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Handwritten signature

Cricket

England v India: second Test, second day

Russell's grind puts India on the spot

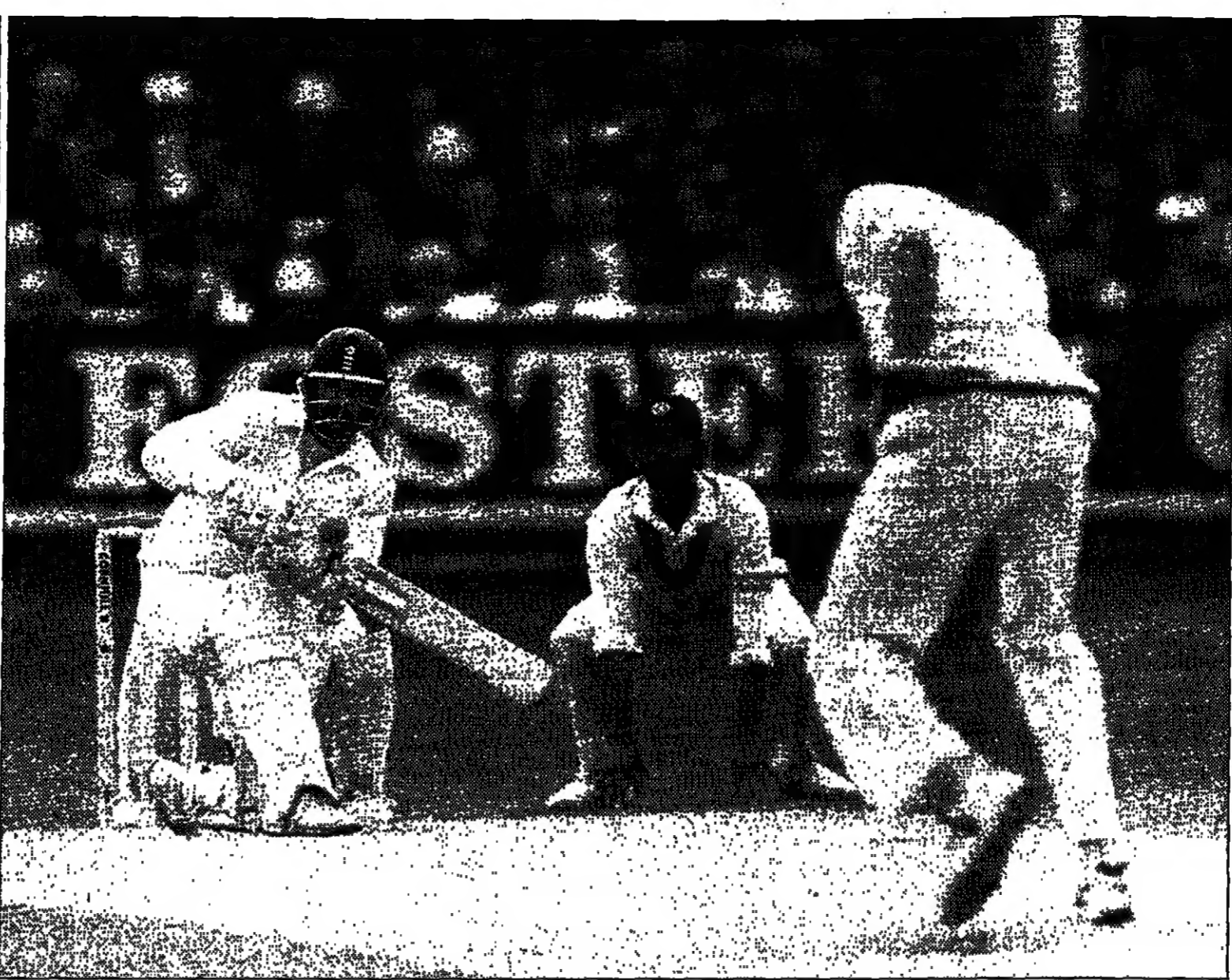
Mike Selvey at Lord's

THOSE who came yesterday expecting to see the new upbeat England stirred by Churchill's speeches and the strains of Land of Hope and Glory may have been disappointed to find that David Lloyd had slipped the Funeral March into the tape deck instead. The second day of this match was gritty, tough, industrial cricket, justified at times, pointlessly banal at others.

For a long period during the afternoon, after Jack Russell had completed his second Test century and then totally lost the plot, it appeared to have come to a halt. Russell was last out for 134, finally trying to break out of the shell into which he had unaccountably retreated for the last 2 1/2 hours of an innings that lasted for more than six. He had seen the England innings progress through to the tea interval yesterday from the Thursday afternoon depths of 107 for five to 364, the proceedings tidied up by the young pace bowler Venkatesh Prasad, who took the last few wickets for seven runs in 32 balls to finish with five for 76.

Puerto Rican Trench, lost Vikram Rathore for 15 to a sensational catch by Nasser Hussain at third slip and Nayan Mongia to a decision from Dickie Bird that defied belief and the geometry of the law.

It was doubly unfortunate because he and Sourev Ganguly, batting at three on his Test debut, were doing a sound job in protecting the batting room of the innings. Tendulkar and Ashrafuddin, until the ball had lost its bite. It is all the same to Tendulkar, however, who played solidly until the close for his 16, by which time India had reached 83 for two, only 62 short of the 145 required to avoid the follow-on.



Terrier spirit... Jack Russell defies Venkatesh Prasad during his six-hour 134 at Lord's yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

only did he survive, to reach 26, he drove and pulled Martin for boundaries and booked Lewis for another. He and Mongia had taken the score on to 59 when Lewis, in his second spell, jagged one back. Apart from the fact that the ball was high and missing

leg stump, it was the perfect leg-before. Any controversy was welcome after the drudgery that had preceded the Indian innings. England had resumed on 238 for five and the first milestone was Graham Thorpe's century. That dream

soon died for, after being close to run out from the day's first and hitting the second for four. Thorpe found Srinath's unexpected bounce hard to control and chopped on to his stumps for 69. Thorpe had played superbly on Thursday but for the 16th

time out of 18 had passed 50 without going on to a century. Russell, though, continued to play in the same busy way that had characterised his first-day contribution, thrusting forward, nudging, driving well and pulling. He found an able ally in Lewis, who curbed

his instincts and dug in, the pair adding 83 for the seventh wicket in 2 1/2 hours, during which Russell collected the two runs to third man that gave him his second Test century. His leap of sheer delight and subsequent celebrations were well merited.

Somerset v Worcestershire

Driving Lee and pulling Turner set record Somerset stand

David Foot at Bath

SHANE LEE, Somerset's brilliant Australian newcomer, and Rob Turner smashed a county record seventh-wicket stand of 278 against Worcestershire's weary and finally ineffective attack. The declaration came with Turner's century, while Lee was undefeated on a career-best 167.

They had transformed the match, leaving Worcestershire to score a daunting 448 after Somerset had appeared to be teetering dangerously on 96 for six, a dispiriting prospect not least to the Bath Festival organisers who feared a Saturday without cricket.

Somerset's previous seventh-wicket partnership had stood for nearly 100 years. Then, against Kent, Sammy Woods and Vernon Hill, a belligerent left-hander who used to back himself to make a century for Oxford, shared 240. They could be uncomplicated sloggers. Lee and Turner were never that.

Not many bowlers this season can get Lee out. He heads the national batting averages, though strictly not eligible as he has been dismissed only six times. He has failed only once - in the first innings of this match after recovering from tonsillitis. There was again a mostly flawless efficiency about his discerning stroke-play. The richness of his on-drives were in the best NSW tradition. Apart from

one uneasy edge off Lampitt he shaped as though making his claim for the Freedom of Bath.

Turner was understandably less spectacular. His hundred came in just over four hours, underlining his middle-order value. He hit 14 fours and a six, compared with Lee's 26 fours and a six.

For his part Turner was apt to lean on a vigorous pull which did not always connect and caused him to lose his balance once or twice. The worth of his role alongside Lee, however, made up for any minor lack of dignity.

Worcestershire were left to face 13 overs and they scored 44 without loss or any significant wickets. There is still much for them to do today.

Yorkshire v Leicestershire

Whitaker brings the lost leaders to ground

Paul Weaver at Bradford

THERE is a persevering boyishness in the features of Martyn Moxton, a dimpled smile beneath spilling hair, which belies his 36 years. But yesterday he looked about 107. This was precisely 107 more than the runs he scored. He was bowled for a duck after half an hour of agonising playing and missing and, when his three

dropped catches are added, it is clear he is having a rotten match. His heavy sides, however, was merely representative of the entire side; the championship leaders are having a shock.

Leicestershire resumed on 461 for four and batted on and on. It looked ominous when they took drinks at a symmetrical 666 for six but they declared shortly afterwards at 681 for seven when the captain James Whitaker was out. This was

the highest score ever made against Yorkshire, beating Somerset's 630 at Leeds in 1901. Leicestershire's faltering championship challenge is surely about to be revived.

In the morning Adrian Pierson was soon out and, although Moxton dropped Aftab Habib shortly afterwards at short mid-off, the batsman was caught six runs later at deep extra-cover. At lunch they were 551 for six. Whitaker

equalled his highest score when he reached 200 but, when he had bettered it by one, his top-edged sweep was put down by Moxton, Yorkshire's seventh miss of the match. Whitaker was caught off a miscued drive for 218, scored in 6 1/2 hours from 334 balls.

When Yorkshire batted David Milnes and Gordon Parsons found more life in the pitch. Michael Vaughan was low first ball and Moxton, who scored a fine

century against Warwickshire in the previous match, was lucky to survive 24 balls before he was bowled when he should have played forward.

David Byas was caught in the slips and Anthony McGrath behind. Michael Bevan struck Parsons for four fours in as many balls but this was merely felling walking with Everest to come. Their immediate target is 632 and they finished on 143 for four.

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Team/Player and Score. Includes sections for Yorkshire v Leicestershire and Somerset v Worcestershire.

Table with 2 columns: Team/Player and Score. Includes sections for Warwickshire v Kent and Somerset v Worcestershire.

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Wimbledon Matchline advertisement featuring 'Latest Scores and Results', 'Visitorline', and 'Faxline' information.

CARTIER INTERNATIONAL POLO advertisement for the CORONATION CUP - ENGLAND V BRAZIL, including contact details for ticket purchases.

Schools For Soundrels advertisement with the slogan 'How to cheat your way into the best schools, tomorrow in the Observer'.

Warwickshire v Kent Bacher warns on Pollock

John Beaumont at Edgbaston

WARWICKSHIRE's attempt to avoid a third championship defeat of the summer was overshadowed by the news that the United Cricket Board of South Africa has protested about Shaun Pollock's heavy workload.

Warwickshire made a gentleman's agreement that they would not over-bowl the 22-year-old when they signed him as their overseas player. However, he has averaged 22 overs per innings this season.

Dr Allan Bacher, the managing director of the UCBSA, contacted Warwickshire's chief executive Dennis Amis yesterday to remind him of the agreement and the champions have agreed to assess the situation.

"We are aware of South Africa's concerns and I will discuss them with our cricket management," said Amis. "We don't want to wear Shaun out but he is also our main strike bowler and we have to get the balance right."

Pollock, who averages a wicket every 11 overs compared with Allan Donald's one every six last summer, has carried Warwickshire's attack because of injuries to Munton and Small.

Munton was unable to bowl yesterday because of a sore back and Kent set Warwickshire an improbable 286 to win on an untrustworthy pitch as 18 wickets fell on an eventful second day.

There were two career-best performances: Mark Salham took eight for 36 as Warwickshire slumped to 137 all out and Dougie Brown six for 52, returning match figures of 11 for 120, as Kent in turn struggled on a pitch that only just passed muster with the umpires.

The groundsman Steve Rouse had left a thick covering of grass in an attempt to get an even surface but it produced an uneven bounce and lavish movement off the seam.

Warwickshire's bowlers were again guilty of pitching too short when Kent began their second innings before lunch and a diligent half-century from Nigel Llong took their lead past 200.

But batting was still precarious and Brown's tighter line and length were rewarded as he improved on his best figures for the second time in successive days as Kent lost their last eight wickets for 50 runs.

Warwickshire closed on 58 for two, Andy Moles having retired hurt with a damaged right thumb.

A Pakistan arrived in England yesterday for their first visit since the acrimonious 1992 tour. The manager Yawar Seef said: "We intend to play the game in its best traditions; we are hoping for a trouble-free tour."

Small advertisement for 'The Observer' newspaper.

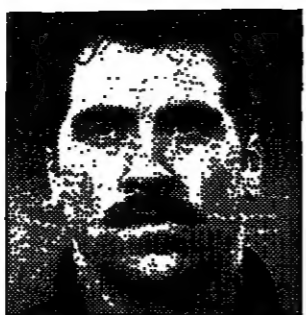
EURO 96

Richard Williams assesses the merits of the England first XI, the men Venables has entrusted so far

So Terry Venables did have a plan, after all — one that could fall apart this afternoon, or might just take them all the way. And anyone who suspects that luck had a hand in the result against Holland should talk to a former top international manager who attended England's private training session the day before and was subsequently impressed by the way the players executed a complex tactical brief to perfection.

Significantly Venables has chosen the same XI to start each of the three matches so far. Rather than shuffling his personnel to suit each different challenge, he has preferred to ask the same individuals to adapt. That seems like good man-management, inspiring loyalty and promoting confidence. Players like to know where they stand and only force majeure, it seems, will persuade the coach to disrupt his line-up now.

Whatever the pressure from outside, internally the squad's morale seems high. Perhaps that ridiculous trip to the Far East really did bond them because, if the performance against Holland had a hallmark, it was the total acceptance of collective responsibility. It was the total acceptance of collective responsibility. It was the total acceptance of collective responsibility. It was the total acceptance of collective responsibility.



David Seaman



Stuart Pearce



Tony Adams



Gareth Southgate



Gary Neville



Steve McManaman

AFTER celebrating his 25th cap with that brilliantly improvised penalty save against McAllister after the leap to scoop Durie's header past the post, Seaman followed up against Holland with a save in open play that may have been even more vital. In the 35th minute, with the score 1-0 to England, Bergkamp volleyed over the bar; in the 38th the same player headed a cross just wide; and in the 39th the Dutch forward, now nicely warmed up, hit a low drive which drew a terrific save from his Arsenal teammate. If Seaman had missed it, a lot of this week's headlines might have been very different. Contribution: 8/10

ONE of the more "English" — meaning technically limited — players in the squad, he was thought to have passed his sell-by date when Venables took over two years ago. Even when Grzegorz Le Saux suffered his injury, Philip Neville was expected to fill the hole. Reinstated, Pearce is having an eventful tournament. Conceding the equalising penalty against Switzerland, substituted at half-time against Scotland, he kept Jordi Cruyff reasonably quiet in the third match. He has yet to be tested by a real winger in this competition. Even if England go all the way, he might not have to face a genuine example of the species. Contribution: 5/10

THE most English of the lot, widely considered to embody all the obsolete virtues of the pre-enlightenment age and therefore a potential liability at this level, but his internal value as a motivator and example seems beyond doubt. There were moments during the group matches when he was embarrassed by Switzerland's Turkylmaz and Holland's Bergkamp but no harm came of it, and his reading of the ball in the air has been impeccable. He won't have to face Stoichkov, and the Spanish are likely to threaten in other ways, but the real tests — Loko and Dugary, a fit Kluyvert, Klinsmann, Suker — lie ahead. Contribution: 7/10

AFTER a mere five caps he is already accepted as the most media-friendly member of the squad, an articulate man capable of providing enterprising quotes without giving secrets away. Along with Shearer, Platt, Adams or Stone, he is sent along to meet the press on a day when trouble is brewing with the tabloids. Starting against Switzerland in midfield he looked out of place. Back in defence, alongside Adams in the middle of a back four or replacing Pearce on the left of a three-back formation, he seemed comfortable. Against better sides more will be asked of his ability to cover for his captain. Contribution: 6/10

FOREIGN critics seem unanimous in their high regard for Neville, a defender of the new generation who is at ease in a variety of formations. Sometimes, going forward, he resembles Kenny Sansom, who would certainly have been proud of the cross to the far post, clipped at speed with the side of the foot, from which Shearer scored England's first against the Scots last weekend. Against Switzerland he showed a familiar tendency to give away too many free-kicks but the 21-year-old, despite being bred to the role, generally goes about the job of playing for England with an engaging lack of cynicism. Contribution: 8/10

WATCHING McManaman struggling on the left wing against Switzerland, beating a man down the line but having to work the ball back on to his right foot for a cross, English minds turned to the presence of Stanley Matthews in the grandstand. What must he have thought? But when Venables switched his two wingers, McManaman started to electricity Wembley. The intelligence with which he drew the Scottish left-back towards him to make the space for Neville's cross was the first indication; his patience while Ince completed the run that earned the penalty against Holland confirmed the arrival of an important talent. Contribution: 8/10

A Seaman rising to top of the ratings

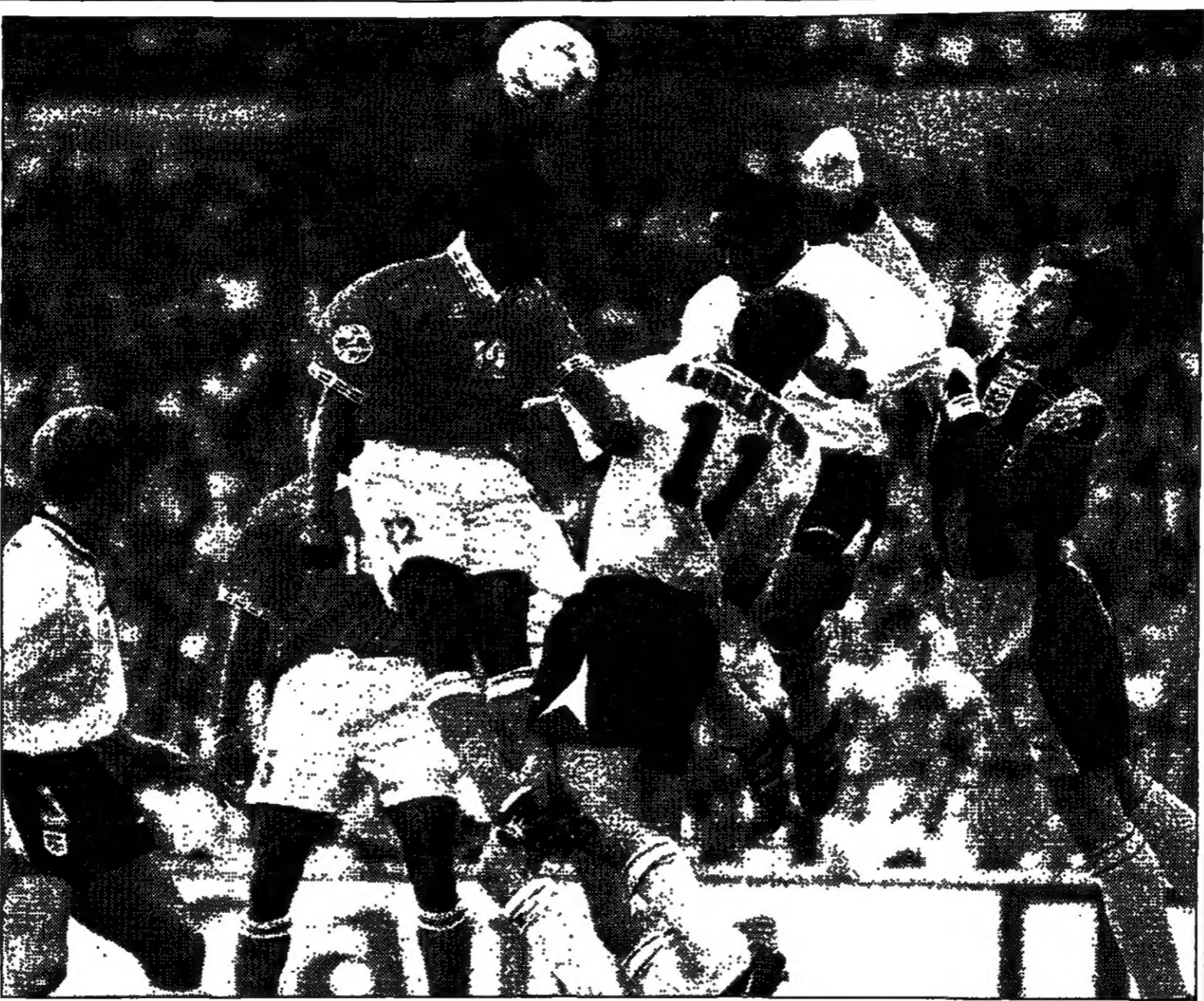
Martin Thorpe on England's placid giant with the passion to be a goalkeeping great

IT WAS a poignant moment on a night of many. As the teams walked on to the Wembley pitch for the second half of Tuesday's remarkable game between England and Holland, David Seaman was mulling over the one-handed reflex save that had denied his Arsenal teammate Dennis Bergkamp a first-half equaliser. Glancing over the lush, green battleground Seaman caught his friend's eye. The Dutchman started shaking his head. "He doesn't smile freely, Dennis," says Seaman's goalkeeper coach Bob Wilson, "but you can tell when he's laughing inside. It was one of those moments between two pros who acknowledge each other's ability."

It was also a recognition of history. Since England and Holland were drawn in the same group for this championship, Seaman and Bergkamp had been regularly reminding each other of that night in Rotterdam in 1983, when England failed to qualify for the World Cup finals. Bergkamp's header round Seaman for Holland's first goal had come to be regarded by the pair as 1-0 to Dennis. "Well," says Wilson, "Tuesday night's save was definitely 1-1."

Through that save and three significant others in Euro 96, millions more people have come to recognise Seaman as one of the world's best goalkeepers, an admiration that does not surprise Wilson. "For the last five years I've felt this guy is far better than people think and some day he's going to prove it."

Despite his huge success with Arsenal, the road has



Punchline... Seaman fists the ball away from a phalanx of friend and foe in England's victory over the Dutch at Wembley. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

away from Durie, the penalty stop from McAllister and the Bergkamp block. Wilson has no doubt which is the best. "Oh, the Durie save. Truly remarkable. David was at the near post for the cross and had to fill eight yards to get across for the header. In that respect it was like the Banksie save in 1970. I'm not saying it was as good but it was a fantastic save, just inside the post. 6ft high. David saved it diving backwards, it was like a claw-out. It was all about fast feet and brilliant ability."

"Goalkeepers are supposed to save when their body weight is forward and their balance is perfect. But the great goalkeepers are able to conjure saves when their body weight is falling backwards and they've got the upper-body strength to pull something out like that."

Wilson, a devoted student of goalkeeping, is impressed by three other Seaman attributes: his presence — "it's the same when he enters a room" — coolness and decision-making. "Goalkeeping is

all about decision-making, and that comes from experience and courage. And having made a decision, it is fatal to dither."

But, he says, the terrible thing about goalkeeping is that it will always knock you. "There are bound to be errors. I don't care who it is," says Wilson. "In '66 I remember seeing Banksie totally misjudge a cross in the semi-final that led to the Portugal equaliser. And that's the great Banksie. That's why I get so uptight worrying about

David, because it's a tightrope goalkeepers walk and I so desperately want everything to keep on going well for him in this tournament. I know what success means to him after all the hard work and graft."

One often suggests everything will be okay. All season Wilson has been motivating Seaman for Euro 96 with a teasing reminder that Banksie is the only England goalkeeper with a World Cup or European Championship winner's medal.

Then, just before the tour-

namment started, Wilson sorted out all his football books. "I found not only my own copy of Banksie of England but I actually got a second one signed 'kind regards, Gordon Banks'."

"I couldn't believe it. It was almost as if it was meant to be. So I wrapped it up with a message saying 'don't forget, only one England goal has ever won a medal and sent it to David. He got it the day they arrived at the training camp.' And the rest, as they say, could be history."

Barney with Barmy

THE biggest act of hypocrisy of any national newspaper during Euro 96 was perpetrated by the Daily Mirror on Thursday morning and it could end up with them being sued by their own football correspondent Harry Harris.

The Mirror back page that morning was dominated by the headline "Traitors" over pictures of their football reporters Nigel Clarke, Frank Wischula and Tony Sansom in the stocks with Harry Harris apparently being led away to the Tower by a growling Yeoman with an axe. A letter from "The Sports Editor" read: "I have had them arrested on behalf of the nation. Their crime? Traitors to the cause of English football."

He has some nerve. It is in fact the sports editor, David "Barmy" Barnforth, who comes up with the most vitriolic anti-England nonsense. Harry Harris does not draw donkey's ears on players or recycle vegetable jokes or compose insulting banner headlines.

Indeed this week Barnforth ordered a Mirror photographer to break the England camp's rules and disturb England's best player on the eve of a vital game to get a picture of Paul Gascoigne fishing. As a result the snapper came within a foot of running over Gazza's toe and putting him out of Euro 96. So who is the real traitor? Fax the Mirror.

Mirror readers invited to fax Barmy demanding his reporters' heads might pause when they recall that 86 per cent of them wanted Gazza dropped barely three weeks before the tournament. They would care to give themselves up at the Tower of London.

Anyway, unlike his colleagues, Harris flatly refused to be put in the stocks by the Mirror, so they grafted his picture byline on to someone else's body to get their yeoman photo. Harris, according to associates, is becoming mad and is contemplating legal action.

FRANCE's preparation for their quarter-final with Holland today at Anfield was disrupted when a police outsider took the party the wrong way up the M62. They flew from Newcastle to their new base in Bolton to try to save some time. But on the way to training at Anfield, their escort got lost and took them into the Pennines — wasting nearly two hours.

NOT that there is anything suspicious about this. Absolutely nothing at all. But who was that spotted going into the Football Supporters' Association Manchester embassy the day after the Germany v Italy game that saw Italy go out? Yes, indeed, it was the linesman and the fourth official from the match. And what did they want to know? Where they can buy a replica Germany kit.

THE most watched game of Euro 96 so far, according to Carat Euro Monitor, was Italy v the Czech Republic, which was seen on television across Europe by 47,980,000 people — 14.6 per cent of Europe — with one-third of the Italian public tuning in.

John Duncan

eurosoccer.com

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The Guardian

Hiddink works on Orange squash hangover

HOLLAND are fortunate still to be involved in Euro 96 and they know it, which makes a victory over France in this evening's quarter-final at Anfield the more likely.

"I am working on the mental approach of my players as much as I am the physical approach," conceded their coach Gaus Hiddink yesterday.

The manner and scale of their embarrassment at Wembley have been sufficient to see the 50p-each-way punter switch horses mid-stream. France are now the favourites to reach Wednesday's semi-finals.

Hiddink is also ready to start tonight with the prodigiously gifted, if half-fit,

Patrick Kluyvert, whose goal against England was just enough to ensure that the near future may, indeed, be orange.

"It wasn't until after Tuesday's game that I fully appreciated how important my goal was," said Kluyvert. "Without it we would already be back home."

"After what happened against England we had to start all over again and

convince everybody that we are a good football team. After all we have been through we are not feeling too good. We were terrible at Wembley."

Like England's opponents Spain, the French have not lost for ages — 26 games, in fact. Their form in Group B was indifferent until circumstances demanded they perform well against Bulgaria in their final fixture.

"I am content because we are getting fitter, better and stronger with every game," said their coach Aimé Jacquet.

"We have no special plans for Holland, or Bergkamp, or Kluyvert. We shall not be concerning ourselves with them at all. They were well below the level we were expecting and they will have put it behind them now."

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Stupples escapes the Curtis stumbles

GREAT BRITAIN and Ireland, after leading at some stage in eight of the nine matches, finished yesterday with a reassuring 6-3 lead over the United States in the Curtis Cup.

On a glorious golfing day — bright sun and sufficient breeze — the home team were fully worth their lead, a fact admitted by the visiting captain Martha Lang. "We struggled all day," she said. "It feels like we missed a lot of putts."

They also missed their

champion Kelli Kuehne in the afternoon, even though she was a winner in the morning. "I decided to rest her," said Lang at the end of the day. "It doesn't look like a good decision right now."

International foursomes are perhaps the most feared form of the game — you can let down not just yourself but your partner and your country — and there was a great deal of nervousness, manifested in rank bad golf, in the morning. The first match was approximately 12 over, the second 11 and the third 12 again.

The long 16th epitomised the uncertainty. Hall and Lisa Educate were one down and

proceeded to waste a glorious chance by three-putting from 25 feet. In the second match Lisa Dermott hit her first putt on the same green eight feet past but Alison Rose held the one back and the Welsh woman doffed her visor in gratitude.

But the final match outdid them all. The Americans missed the green in three and chipped 20 feet past. Then Moodie, from 25 feet, hit the ball nine feet past. Mhairi McKay missed and the Americans, by now four feet past, did so as well. GB&I won the hole with a bogey to a double-bogey seven.

Only a completely out-of-touch Julie Hall lost in the afternoon, and she was seven over par when beaten 4 and 2 by Sarah Lebrun Ingram.

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EURO 96

Spain have beef with the 'roids' beasts

Ferry gets good on

Handwritten signature or mark.

EURO 96



Paul Ince



Paul Gascoigne



Darren Anderton



Alan Shearer



Teddy Sheringham

SOME of the men who coached Ince earlier in his career became exasperated by his insistence on pushing up...

WHAT a story this is. Scorned and abused, written off, dumped in the knacker's yard...

LUCKY to be there since he had only recently recovered from injury and his replacement, Steve Stone...

HE and Venables were right and those of us who doubted him were wrong. Simple as that...

IN terms of charisma and function, Sheringham is the Roger Hunt of the side. Seldom displaying the graceful touches that seduce neutrals...

Eight must beware golden minefield

David Lacey on quarter-finals now carrying an extra tension

ENGLAND v SPAIN

AN EARLY goal will open up any game but the longer this Wembley quarter-final today remains scoreless...

FRANCE v HOLLAND

THE contest this evening at Anfield could be the best quarter-final. After an uncertain start France have steadily re-acquired their better rhythms...

GERMANY v CROATIA

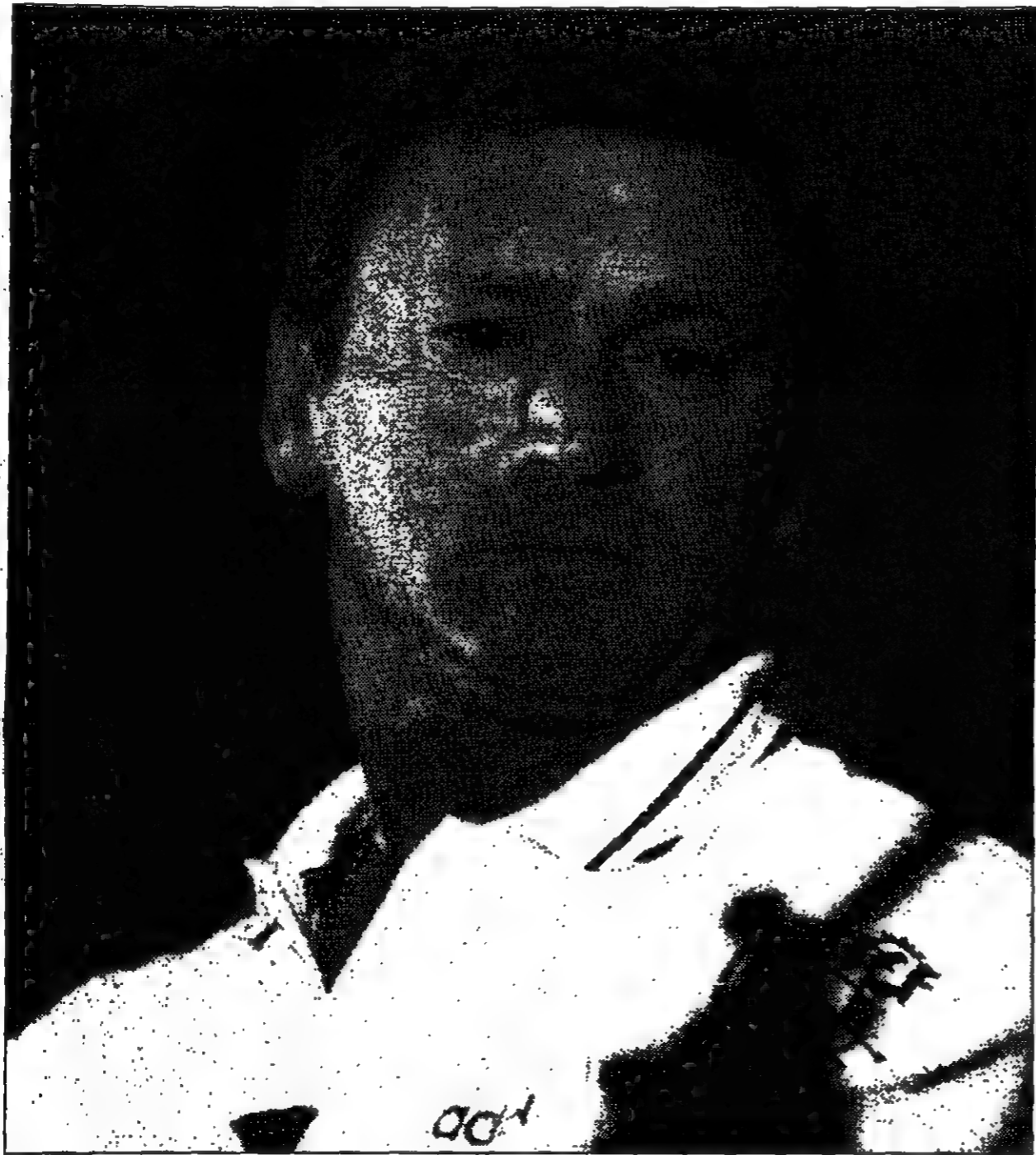
THERE is a heavy-metal look about this match. Croatia are habitually cautious starters, patient and possessive...

PORTUGAL v CZECH REP

PORTUGAL would be popular semi-finalists. Their fluent, imaginative, close-passing game has brought undertones of Brazil to this tournament...

Spain have a beef with the tabloids' beasts and butchers

Richard Williams on the anger of Javier Clemente at pre-match taunts



Boiling Basque... Clemente believes that 'the minimum required' in this country is respect

THE only hard information to emerge from the Spanish camp on the eve of today's Wembley quarter-final was that the players will sit down to a cup of tea an hour before the match...

Somebody and then ask them how they feel about it. So they asked Clemente how he felt about the volume of 'anti-Spanish feeding'...

that getting the chance to beat England at Wembley is important for any player. It is clear that our national team are not afraid of England...

he been thinking about that this week, remembering some of the things he had learnt that day? 'Not specially. The English team is different now. So is the Spanish team.'

Did he approach this match with a sense of history? 'I've always been a great admirer of English football, and to come all the way from Bilbao to Wembley, to play England in the European Championship, is a very special feeling.'

Golf

Farry gets good and ugly as yips hit Langer

AWEDGE shot that disappeared into the hole from 130 yards gave Marc Farry a distinct feeling of déjà vu here yesterday because the Frenchman's long-range eagle at the 12th earned him the halfway lead in the BMW International Open here at the St Ernoch club...

year-old on his first visit to Europe - with two Irishmen, David Higgins and Padraig Harrington, at 10 under along with England's Russell Claydon. Harrington had six birdie putts of more than 12 feet in his 66.

Langer had two clearly discernible yips in three-putting two par-five holes and had another two triple-putts. But the German's long game remains impeccable and he hit all 18 greens in regulation to trail by only six strokes.

Sport in brief

Soccer

Mike Walker has been re-appointed as Norwich manager - 2 1/2 years after his departure, amid much ill-feeling. He replaces Gary Megson, who resigned after only six months in the job.

Athletics

Edwin Wide, one of few to outrun the 'Flying Finn' Paavo Nurmi, died on Wednesday at the age of 100. The Swede won medals at three Olympic Games and set three world records during the 1920s.

Ice Hockey

Sheffield Steelers have signed a new netminder after their former NHL player Wayne Cowley left the grand slam champions for a top German side. The Sheffield club, who won all three domestic trophies last season, have signed the Italian-Canadian Piero Greco, a 28-year-old from Ontario who has played the last six seasons in the Italian first division.

Chess

Only 10 minutes' play was needed at Elista before Anatoly Karpov wrapped up another draw in the Fide world championship and so maintained his three-point lead over his US challenger Gata Kamsky, writes Leonard Barden. The score before today's ninth game in the 20-game series is Karpov 5 1/2, Kamsky 2 1/2.



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Sports Guardian

EURO 96

Venables stokes the home fires

David Lacey warns that worldly-wise Spain will not be easy to overcome

Spain failed to stop an English game of bowls but are better equipped to put a spoke in the wheels of an English bandwagon. It has happened before, in Madrid in the 1982 World Cup when Ron Greenwood's team, needing a two-goal victory to reach the semi-finals, were held to a scoreless draw.

If England are to reach a similar stage of the European Championship by beating the Spaniards at Wembley this afternoon they will need to keep their wits about them. This is not Fawley Towers. It will take more than a clip round the ear to dislodge Javier Clemente's skilful, resilient, worldly-wise team, especially if the match enters the fresh field of sudden-death overtime.

England's 4-1 victory over Holland on Tuesday has left the country feeling even more sanguine about its team's chances than six years ago, when Bobby Robson's side prepared to face West Germany in Turin in the World Cup semi-finals. Triumphalism is sprouting where once only turnips grew.

The Italian adventure ended amid tears and missed penalties. This time England are at home and will be backed by the vast majority of a 78,000 crowd. Apart from 1986 and 1990 the quarter-finals have tended to represent

the watershed of English ambitions at this level but, if they fall today, the anti-climax will be no less profound. "Keep it coming," was Terry Venables' response yesterday to questions about the effect England's newly ebullient support might have on today's game. "If our fans keep supporting us in the way they have, then we will do our best to respond."

No one can doubt that Venables' players will do their utmost to reach the penultimate stage, where they would meet the winners of tomorrow afternoon's quarter-final at Old Trafford between Germany and Croatia. This time, however, the England coach will be unable to field his best team, especially if injuries to Tony Adams, Darren Anderton and Alan Shearer have not cleared up by today.

Paul Ince is already out, serving a one-match suspension after picking up a second yellow card against the Dutch. David Platt is expected to replace him but Ince's strength and tenacity will be missed, especially against Miguel Nadal, the dark force in Spain's midfield.

The casualties should recover in time, however. Shearer did not realise at first that he had suffered a knock on the thigh during Tuesday's game, so it cannot be that serious and Venables will not have objected to raising false



Another armada... the striker Kiko stands tall as the Spanish team take a stroll around Wembley in the sunshine yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARNON

Spanish hopes. Adams's knee problem was no worse yesterday than it was on the eve of the Holland match, so he will probably resume his place in the middle of a three- or four-man defence, depending on how many players Clemente intends using up front. If, as expected, Spain start with Kiko as a lone attacker, then Gareth Southgate will shore

up Venables' midfield. Anderton's hamstring problem is more worrying because of his history of strains. His performance against Holland was a marked improvement on his displays against the Swiss and the Scots, even allowing for the first-time pep that set up Paul Gascoigne's goal last Saturday. Should Anderton fail a fit-

ness test Venables will be forced to use Steve Stone on the right to counter the attacking threat of Sergi while Steve McNamman switches back to the left.

England's biggest fear yesterday was that they would have to take on the tough, seasoned Spaniards with the balance of their team seriously disturbed. Certainly Venables is expecting a different game from Tuesday. "Spain will work hard to deny us space to play in," he explained. "It will be a difficult game — not as open as the Holland match."

"Spain have a lot of drive, they keep going and technically they are very good. They will also be very well organised. They are a bit like Portugal but rely more on team play than individual brilliance."

"We've got to be patient

tomorrow. We've got to keep our shape and keep our heads. Spain are bound to be cautious at the start but, if they are too cautious for too long, they may end up giving us the initiative."

Whatever the temperature at Wembley this afternoon

cool heads will be needed. Spanish footballers may not be as overtly cynical as the Argentinians but today's game may well draw comparisons with England's eventful World Cup quarter-final in 1986, when Argentina tried to con the strutting German referee Rudolf Kreitlein and eventually had their captain Antonio Rattin sent off.

Today's referee, the Frenchman Marc Battu, needs to establish firm control without resorting to histrionics. Several players on either side have yellow cards, among them Adams, Southgate, Sheringham, Shearer, Nadal, Amor, Sergi and Abelardo. If England win, they cannot afford to lose any more players for the semi-finals. No Shearer, no party.

Probable teams

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| ENGLAND | SPAIN |
| Shearer | Zakharov |
| G Neville | Lopez |
| Adams | Alborta |
| Pearce | Abelardo |
| Southgate | Sergi |
| Anderton | Nadal |
| Gascoigne | Morro |
| Platt | Luis Enrique |
| McNamman | Amor |
| Sheringham | Cambiero |
| Shearer | Kiko |

Richard Williams, page 11
Mike Solvey, page 2

Stalwart Russell has one regret

David Hopps at Lord's

JACK RUSSELL was left with one nagging regret after his first Test century for seven years had bolstered England's position in the first Cornhill Test here yesterday — that he failed to beat the highest Test score made by his wicketkeeping idol Alan Knott.

Knott's 185 against Australia at Trent Bridge in 1977 might not be quite the record score by an England keeper — Len Ames surpassed that on three occasions before the second world war — but it was at the forefront of Russell's mind as he ground on to 124 before becoming last man out in England's first innings total of 344.

Russell's last 24 runs took 2½ hours as the forthright strokeplay that had been a feature of his innings deserted him. "I found it harder as it went on for some reason," he said. "It wasn't a wicket to blaze away on and after lunch India bowled tightly and things didn't quite work out."

Russell, an avid painter of military scenes, relaxed before the Test at the Imperial War Museum, sampling the Trench Experience. In the past week he has gained an MBE to add to his officer-class mouse-tache and was planning to celebrate in familiar style. "I'll have a sit down with a cup of tea and think about it," he said.

Russell's 84-hour innings, from a precarious England position of 107 for five, furthered his reputation as a man for a crisis which he gained during his back-to-the-wall effort alongside Mike Atherton to save the second Test against South Africa in Johannesburg last year. On that occasion he had batted for most of the final day for 29.

At the end of his innings, there was a special word of gratitude for the umpire Dickie Bird. "Dickie's encouraged me over the years when I wasn't in the Test team, telling me that I was the best and to keep going. That meant a lot to me. I just said, 'Thanks Dick'."

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Confronted for the first time by the memorial and its immense, simple inscription, "The missing of the Somme", and by the names of 73,077 men who died here but whose bodies were never identified, something in me became very still and I began to listen.

Geoff Dyer



Outlook page 18

Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,686

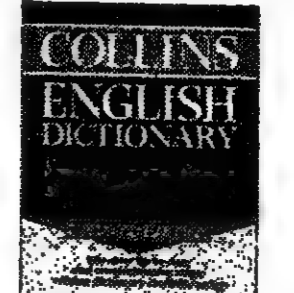
A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,686, EO, Box 315, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday July 1.

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

- Set by Araucaria**
- Across**
- 1 Follower takes record off pile to play after 10 (8)
 - 5 Female turned in for 1 down (6)
 - 9 Is situated in sediment, leastwise? (8)
 - 10 Works for printer of 1 down (6)
 - 12 Prominent and virtuous person first seen in exposure (11)
 - 15 Romanian going the wrong way in with Calvados (5)
 - 17 Painful feeling for female about skill with stickler (8)
 - 18 Monarch, a male, at sea with 1 down's brothers (8)
- Down**
- 1 8 writer of note votes perversely for TV company (10)
 - 2 Has spirit left, sufficient to quibble (5,5)
 - 3 1 down's 9? (5)



- 4 Pooking one's ball behind a bunker? (6,6)
- 6 Green rough? Summon up the very active (8)
- 7, 22, 23 One among 1 down's tips: if you want it done properly... (2,2,8)
- 8 Person in collapsed state, bottom to top (4)
- 11 Road's arrival at Yorkshire river is an accident (12)
- 13 Transported his fellows in boat — could be fine (10)
- 14 His promises are the last one gets (10)
- 16 Facade for civilians in wartime (4,5)
- 21 White sheets, almost all worthless? (5)
- 22, 23 See 7

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,686

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July 11 1996

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Sunday June 23
1996
Page 13

The Guardian Outlook

Why is it that one game has transformed England into a nation of optimists, asks MATTHEW ENGEL. Could this instant feel-good factor be Major's salvation?

Land of Hope and Tory?

IN THE 1960s there was a television programme called *What's My Line?* on a Sunday night. As older readers will recall, celebrity panelists had to guess what ordinary members of the public did for a living. Then on Monday morning everyone would go into work and discuss Barbara Kelly's earrings and whether or not Gilbert Harding had been more than normally damp.

This afternoon, up to 20 million people are expected to watch England play Spain at soccer in the quarter-finals of the European Championship. That will represent a SNE of epic proportions, even though it still leaves another 36 million people who will be going about their lawful business in the supermarkets or their gardens, watching *Moula Shearer* on Channel Four or tractors pulling on Eurosport, a disproportionate amount of them in those parts of the United Kingdom outside England.

There are probably still people around who are unaware that Margaret Thatcher is no longer prime minister. But south of Grouse and east of Wrexham, it will be almost impossible to avoid at least discussing the football today. It has been difficult all week, ever since Paul Gascoigne scored his remarkable goal against Scotland that transformed the reputation of his team from a bunch of boorish, plane-trashing wastrels into apparent world-beaters.

In SNE terms, we have been here since *What's My Line?*, but not often. In the 1960s, the Beatles at the London Palladium, the World Cup win of 1966 (of course) and even Sandie Shaw's victory in the Eurovision Song Contest had a certain resonance — British aspirations in the immediate post-Churchillian era were already rather modest and trivial. In more recent times, only the Falklands and Gulf Wars and the 1990 World Cup have had a similar effect, and perhaps — ah, me — the Chas and Didi wedding. As the Royal Family's capacity to enchant us all diminishes, and Rupert Murdoch buys up more and more sporting events, the opportunities for SNEs will get fewer — and, for all we know, Rupert has already negotiated an exclusive pay-per-view deal on the next small war.

Perhaps it is the sense that this might never happen again that has made the build-up to this afternoon's SNE so peculiar.

There has been something un-English about it. Our characteristic national mood of alienation and Eeyore-ish pessimism has been replaced by an alarming degree of what one can only describe as rather alien enthusiasm. Anyone familiar with the pattern of these footballing tournaments will be aware that they are most often won by the teams who do not make themselves too conspicuous in the early stages, doing just enough to stay in, coming to a peak for the crucial matches, like a thoroughbred at Royal Ascot taking the lead in the last furlong. Teams that produce their "best performance in 80 years" in a qualifying match, when a draw would have been ample, are considered likely to have trouble sustaining the same momentum in three progressively more difficult knock-out games.

Such thoughts seem to have been drowned out in public debate over the past few days, not merely on pages 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Sun ("Spanish Van-

we are drawing enormous conclusions that have relevance to BSE, EMU and the IRA? Is England v Spain the continuation of the fishing dispute by other means? Will England's win be the miracle that catapults the Conservatives to their fifth election victory? And, if so, should we now start cheering for the Spanish to prevent that happening?

It has now entered national mythology that Harold Wilson won the 1966 election on the back of England's World Cup victory. It is usually left to the political columnist Alan Watkins to point out that that is rather improbable, on the pedantic grounds that the election was in March 1966 and the football in June.

The year football and politics did coincide was 1970 when England, 3-0 up, infamously lost 3-2 to Germany after Peter Bonetti replaced the injured Gordon Banks; and four days later Wilson, having been ahead in the opinion polls throughout, lost the election to Ted Heath.

The phrase "feel-good factor" had not been invented, but Harold Wilson's use of the general idea had been pretty shameless. After the defeat, he distanced himself at once from the players — "I'm not aware that any of my Cabinet colleagues were in the team" — and there is no hard evidence that it had any effect whatever.

The Nuffield study of that election could only speculate that "on the Monday there was a slight break in the sunshine that had dominated the campaign; the weather continued good but the change, like the World Cup defeat, may have contributed to a switch in mood."

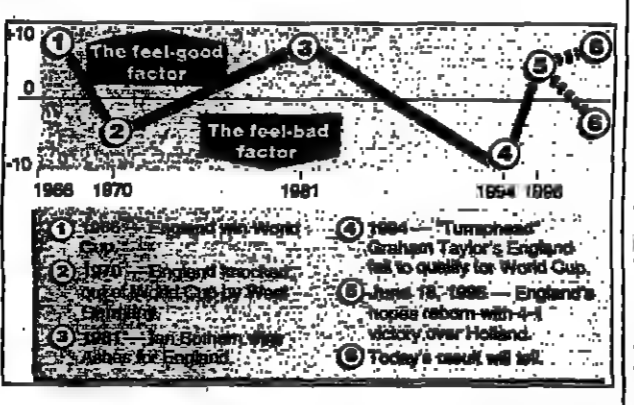
The February 1974 election, when Heath himself lost office, took place a full four months after England had shockingly failed to beat Poland ("The End of the World" was the Sun's headline) and thus did not qualify for that World Cup. By that time, people were presumably more concerned by the miners' strike and the resultant doubt about whether they

could switch their televisions on at all. Thereafter, elections have taken place well away from World Cups. The connection, or lack of it, may make a thesis for someone, somewhere.

Personally, I am highly sceptical. What is known is that elections are not mass experiences like football matches, but a collection of vastly different individual decisions: voters separating and coalescing between the two major parties, the Liberals, others and abstentions like molecules, apparently at random.

If England win the European Championship, most of us will be pleased, maybe momentarily euphoric. If they lose, either today or next week, we will be briefly downcast. Four days later it will not be taking up the first five pages even in *The Sun* and it will not be in the forefront of the concerns of even the most hysterical football fan. Even in Italy we may assume that life, after their team's elimination from Euro 96, has returned to something like normal.

In England, this most private of countries, the national football team's success or otherwise ought not to affect any adult for very long at all. But, I damn, there does seem to be something fearfully illogical about the English just at the moment.



What's the story? ... England's glory. The power of shared euphoria. PHOTOGRAPHY ALISTAIR BIRG

The pride and the slide — how our sporting heroes cheered and depressed us

THE UPS:
1966: England in the World Cup finals produced one of the most talked-about goals in soccer history — Geoff Hurst's strike that hit the underside of the bar and landed on the goal line. Germany still contests the referee's decision to allow it.

1977: The Queen's silver jubilee was marked by Virginia Wade winning the centenary Wimbledon and Geoffrey Boycott reaching his hundredth hundred at his home ground, Headingley, to help England regain the Ashes.

1980: The national fervour started with Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett smashing two world records for the 1,000 metres and the one-mile run in Oslo a month before the Olympic Games. Coe won the gold for the 1,500 metres in the Moscow Olympics and the silver for the 800 metres. Ovett took the bronze. The duo were hailed as gloom-beaters at a time of economic blues.

1984: Jane Torvill and Christopher Dean skated, in 1984, into Olympic history, to Ravel's Bolero, with an unprecedented 12 axes for the gold. A telegram from Mrs Thatcher read: "You have captured not just the hearts of your country but the imagination of the whole world."

THE DOWNS:
1982: The dawn of Test cricket: the first match in England between Australia and a full-strength English team, including the mighty WG Grace. England led on first innings and needed only 85 to win. But they were bowled out for 77. The *Sporting Times* carried an obituary notice bewailing the death of English cricket: its body would be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia.

1986: In the first World Cup for 12 years — global conflict caused the interruption — England faced the US, confident of victory. Instead they suffered a defeat so unlikely that on receiving the news, some British newspapers thought there had been a printing mistake and listed the score as 10-1. The humiliating truth was 0-1.

1970: The World Cup quarter-finals set up a repeat of the 1966 final against West Germany. England led 2-0 with 22 minutes to go, but the Germans fought back and eventually won 3-2. Harold Wilson lost the election four days later. Bob Worcester, chairman of pollsters MORI, said that Wilson confided to him that if he had called the election a week earlier, he would have been voted back in.

1988: Britain were the laughing stock of the tennis world after the women's team crashed out of the NEC Federation Cup, defeated by Indonesia.

Emily Sheffield

Le family fortnight.

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14 THE LEADER PAGE

Howard's knee jerk too far

BRITISH crime week comes to an end today. This was the week in which Michael Howard was going to force Labour on to the backfoot with a blitzkrieg of tough-sounding measures in the hope of ending the lead which the Opposition still holds in public confidence on controlling crime.

most retributive and base instincts of man, Michael Howard still trails behind Labour in public confidence on crime control. Joe Public is not as vindictive as cynical Conservative strategists believe. Deep down the main purpose of the criminal justice system — to replace revenge and lynch law with a fair system of detection, prosecution and punishment — remain widely respected.

Chief probation officers have rightly noted that only 10 per cent of paedophiles will be on the register — the 10 per cent caught by the criminal justice system and even this group is now less likely to be supervised on release or be given treatment programmes in prison because of serious cuts to the probation service.

pense of more constructive sections. Its recent package on youth crime, for example, sensibly called for a restoration of intensive supervision programmes which were abandoned in 1983, but the press launch emphasised the need to replace repeat cautions with a single warning.

and the King and Queen could be anywhere along that line. At a stroke this would make hundreds of books about chess openings redundant and would remove the tedium of those grandmaster games which sometimes repeat the same 20 or even 30 moves of known games before one of the players dares to risk a variation.



A constant secession

Black as well as white Americans now display some bad old Southern habits, says MARTIN WOOLLACOTT. Illustration by PETER TILL

HISTORY is, by definition, unfinished, but quite how unfinished has been one of the rediscoveries of the last few years. Seemingly fundamental changes take place, yet these revolutions, in retrospect, come to be seen as mere rearrangements of stubborn problems.

the burning of black churches. It is apparent how far we have come from the Swedish scholar's belief in willed social change. This is not because the burnings represent a regression to racism in the South. They are, in themselves, an ambiguous phenomenon embracing everything from insurance fraud to pyromania.

being used as the weapon of choice in the battle between the two parties. Tom Wicker argues in his new book, 'Tragic Failure, that race has been the key issue in every election since 1968, producing a quarter century of Republican ascendancy broken only by Carter's single term.

Through the adult window



Mary Riddell

CHILDREN certainly do watch too much television. I tried to discuss this, only the other day, with my sub-teenage son, but he was too busy on the Internet, getting engaged to someone called Melissa from Potomac.

So why has the BBC chosen to move it to a post-watershed slot of 9.30pm? Because it is not suitable viewing? Its subject-matter (alien patricians was a recent theme) is not likely to appeal to Mary Whitehouse, but well-balanced children are far better able to separate fiction from reality than the moralists would have us believe.

Yet, all this multi-media bombardment only increases the case for thought-provoking television. That does not mean — as I fear the BBC thinks — going for one show-case S Lewis dramatisation a year and a bit of deckchair rearranging.

I do not agree either that television is sinking into clip-joint programming, nor with Gynge's censorious remedy. Still, at least his view has the merit of being straightforward. The BBC's agonising over its child viewers is anything but.

The BBC's worries are strangely out of kilter with its scheduling policy. As the Childwise survey noted with horror, children watch adult programmes — Neighbours, EastEnders and the X-Files — in preference to the dress served up on Kiddy TV.

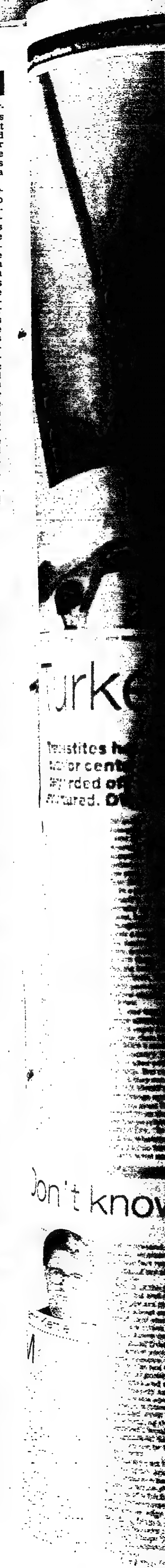
Of course they do. Neighbours is a long-established homework substitute. The X-Files owes its cult status to the under-16s. It is the most popular children's TV programme.

Advertisement for 'Friends of the Earth' featuring a photo of a car and the text 'We need friends because clouds once inspired great poetry. Not small ads.' Includes phone number 01582 482 297.

Advertisement for 'Smallweed' featuring a cartoon illustration of a man and the text 'Smallweed, the Dutch. The most stunning result in 20 years was considered less newsworthy than the make-up of the Israeli cabinet.'

Advertisement for 'Venables' featuring a cartoon illustration of a man and the text 'Venables, the Dutch. The most stunning result in 20 years was considered less newsworthy than the make-up of the Israeli cabinet.'

Advertisement for 'Books' featuring a cartoon illustration of a man and the text 'Books are selling into Euro '96 with all their big guns pointing the wrong way. The famous "rounding-out" of a bookie's book, matching odds with exposure, is hard enough to achieve at a race meeting, and impossible for a football championship.'



Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.



The third sex... Turkish society has a complex relationship with alternative sexualities. By night many men use transsexuals as prostitutes while condemning their hedonism by day

PHOTOGRAPH BY BEAN SMITH

Turkey turns on its decadent past

Transvestites have been part of Ottoman culture for centuries but now they are being herded off the streets of Istanbul and tortured. OWEN BOWCOTT reports

STANBUL has always enjoyed a reputation for sexual intrigue and the latest affair may yet be the most bizarre. On the streets of the city which straddles Europe and Asia, an unlikely trial of strength has pitted a sensible transvestite community against a police force whose affection for torture has earned it international notoriety.

Houses have been torched, dancers and street-walkers beaten up, while court cases brought against officers have had to be abandoned in the face of threats. Despite the intervention of international human rights groups, the conflict has escalated.

Exhibitionists they may be — both by dress sense and profession — but Ece and Hande did not expect to be thrust quite so prominently into the political limelight. They and their colleagues have become front page news in Turkey.

In hiding in a basement flat in the Taksim district of Istanbul, the two cross-dressers, with their painted fingernails, pastel eye-shadow and waxed legs, were planning their next campaign. Their fear of venturing outside mingled with an aura of injured pride. "People in Turkey can

be quite two-faced," Hande complained, waving a cigarette in the air. "People are scared that if they are seen to support us, they will be labelled as transvestites. And the men who sleep with us fear they will be discovered."

In a predominantly Muslim country, which stresses its secular political establishment, homosexuality is not recognised and does not merit even a mention in the law. Of the more esoteric questions of men dressing as women — of which there is a long tradition dating back even beyond Ottoman times, to the city's ancient past as capital of the Byzantine empire — there is also silence.

In one way, those who embrace alternative sexual lifestyles enjoy a more liberal regime than in Britain. If you are born a man or a woman in this country, you cannot officially alter your sex in public records. But residents of Istanbul, if they can afford it, may switch identity by having a sex change operation.

"You must first obtain a report from the hospital and see the psychiatrist," explains Ece. "In Turkey you can do whatever you like as long as you have the money. That's what matters."

Born 29 years ago as a boy to a family who had emigrated in search of work to Mannheim, West Germany, she — as she is now registered — proudly holds up her state identity card. Men's cards are rather quaintly edged in blue, women's in pink. Her's is pink, so she's a woman. Or, perhaps, gay?

"Homosexuality is neither male nor female," Ece insists, puffing on a long Marlboro. "It's a third form of sexuality. It is for someone who is a male who wants to have female characters, or vice versa."

The history of transvestitism in Turkish culture is not as obscure as it might first appear. The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at London University held an anthropology seminar on the subject earlier this year and one of its lecturers, Dr Nancy Lindisfarne, has edited a book, *Dislocating Masculinity*, which describes its roots.

"There is a long tradition of masked, male, transvestite dancers. They were known as Kocaks. They were popular during the Ottoman period. The country has a long history of gender-crossing which continues to this day with Turkish pop stars. The persecuted cross-



Transvestites as well as women danced for the Sultans — some of whom kept harems of boys. But when the Ottomans went to war, it was the male courtesans who accompanied them

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

dressers of modern Istanbul are well aware of their courtisan predecessors and of the handful of contemporary role models who have made it through to mainstream, televised culture.

"The Sultans used to have a separate harem for young men," explains Ece. Rulers also indulged in exotic heterosexual practices, widely seen as a symbol of the empire's decline into decadence and decay. Hande, who is aged 26, has done her research. "In those days there were the boys of the palace, the boys of the bath and the Kocaks," she ex-

plains. "The Kocaks were homosexual, skilled male dancers who performed in women's clothing. Courtesans used to fight each other for the favours of chosen Kocaks and the disputes became so disruptive that the sultans had to ban Kocak shows. There was no persecution then." Kocaks, in fact, were often paid for entertaining at weddings or circumcision ceremonies.

"When the Pashas went off fighting," Hande continues, "they used to take young men or boys rather than women. All that's covered up now. The

Turkish history books say that only heterosexuals were around in the Ottoman era."

Today the transvestite community in Istanbul is estimated by its members to number as many as 2,000. For almost all of them, it is a precarious existence which renders them objects of popular prejudice.

Many, who say they are discriminated against when seeking work, are reduced to earning a living through prostitution, often street-walking — a practice known locally as "hitch-hiking". "I don't like prostitution," Ece confesses, "and I'm opposed to people being bought and sold, but I only have my transsexuality and I'm happy like this."

The luckier ones make a living singing or dancing in night clubs where they still form part of the evening's entertainment. One such dancer is Derya. Midway through the conversation she interrupts with a loud moan from the sofa where she is sitting.

"Oh, I'm not a prostitute, she protests, fluttering her painted eye-lids. "I'm an honourable woman."

Their lifestyles do not appear honourable, however, in the eyes of many in modern Turkey. Although Islamic authorities have sometimes ordered the death sentence for homosexuality, transvestite problems have come more immediately from the civil and military authorities ushered in by Ataturk's revolution.

Police officers use laws against indecency and regulations governing the formation of associations to crack down on both the transsexual and wider homosexual community. The first explicitly gay group was only formed in 1992 but broken up by the police within a few years.

The crackdown intensified this month when thousands of international delegates flooded into Istanbul to attend the United Nations' Habitat II conference on the future of large cities. Transvestites were warned to disappear by the local police and several of their flats allegedly set on fire.

Hande claims she witnessed one transvestite's apartment, opposite her home, being burnt by officers who had sledged her way into the building. "I saw them," she maintains. "They set up informers among the neighbours to tell them when we came and went. I was peeping through the curtains and saw the fire brigade come eventually." The police later told the press that a transvestite had tried to set fire to himself.

The man immediately blamed for the persecution is the police chief in the Beyoglu district of the city. His nickname is Hortum, the Turkish for "hose" and a reference to what is allegedly one of his favoured methods of torture using high-pressure cold water.

Other treatments to which transvestites claim they have been subjected include being beaten with cables. "One of the policemen has a handful of

different coloured cables and asks you to pick one," Hande says. "If you choose a colour he whips you with that one, if you don't you are hit with all of them."

There have also been complaints of detainees being tied at the hands and legs and hung upside down; of people being stripped, spat on and left in cold rooms; of being slammed into walls while being held by their hair; and of being kicked in their sexual organs.

For a country in which Amnesty International last year recorded 15 deaths in custody due to torture and 35 people having been "disappeared" by the security forces, these may be relatively mild measures.

IHD, Turkey's Human Rights Association, has supported attempts by transvestites to sue police officers for the torture they have endured. None have been successful so far. In 1991, the courts dismissed one case on the flimsy grounds that the officer had been transferred to another station and therefore another legal district.

"The laws are set up to protect the police," said Hande. "We plan to take another case over the burning of the flats. Even if they put more pressure on us, the facts must come out."

For most of the morning Ece and Hande had sat nestling together on the same armchair, intermittently hugging and stroking each other's hair. "Well," Ece said finally, "that's our life."

Don't know much about Ireland? Neither do our 'experts'



Martin Kettle

MOST cricket writers spend a lot of time at cricket matches, and rightly so. Most political journalists spend much of their day at Parliament, and so they should. To cover events in America you must go to Washington, and in Russia go at least to Moscow.

But here's a funny thing. Many of the British journalists who write regularly about Northern Ireland go there very rarely indeed, if they go at all.

I should know. For the last three years I suppose I have written about Ireland once a week, and more often than that at times of excitement and crisis. I'm not saying I don't keep in touch, because I do, after a fashion. Nor am I confessing that I never set

foot in Ireland, north or south, because I do that too. But the fact remains that I am typical of my absentee writing tribe.

Much of the political reporting and commentary that appears in the British media about one of the most significant stories of the decade is written by people who barely know one end of the Falls Road from the other and who know about Ireland only at one remove, at best.

Now I'm not wanting to get into an argument here about the rights and wrongs of this. I will merely say that I can have a view about Saddam Hussein without going to Baghdad, even without going to Baghdad. I would understand things about Saddam Hussein that cannot be learned in any other way.

Nobody can be everywhere all the time, and commentators who are based in London have to write about many things of which they have only intermittent or imperfect knowledge. I accept that writing from a distance is bound to have its drawbacks, though I hope that it can also have its occasional advantages too.

I think that it is still possible to stay intelligent things about Ireland from a London desk. But then I would, wouldn't I? Yet there is always a danger that a London desk provides a vantage point only for saying silly, ignorant and irresponsible things about Ireland.

Take a look at Peregrine Worsthorne's facile blessing for an armed unionist revolt in the current Spectator. Mind you, foolishness about Ireland is not confined to Anglo-unionist writers, though you could be forgiven for thinking so. There are silly and ignorant Anglo-republicans over here too.

Normally, when I write about Ireland, I talk on the phone, to politicians, press officers and academics. I'd be a fool if I didn't regularly take advice from colleagues, particularly the paper's man on the ground, David Sharrock. If he says something is so, then you had better believe it, and I have learned to do so.

But the best way of keeping up to date on a daily basis is by reading the Irish papers, and, of all the Irish papers, the supreme source is the Dublin-based Irish Times.

The Irish Times is my kind of newspaper. A paper full of words rather than pictures, a

paper of record and fact, generous to a fault in its extensive coverage of the minutiae of politics, north and south. A paper with its eccentricities and foibles like all papers of self-confident tradition, but a paper which communicates a real and distinctive feel for its country and its people.

As an insight into Dublin life, it is unrivalled (not least in its excellent property supplement), but it is not parochial. It is a writer's paper like few others, with a string of columnists and specialists of great knowledge and high individuality. And, like all writers' papers it is thereby also a readers' paper.

WHAT do they know of Ireland who only the Irish Times know? Not enough. I confess, but Ireland's premier daily newspaper certainly provides a head start for anyone trying to plot an informed path through the hall of mirrors of Irish life and politics. The Irish Times may not sell many copies in Britain, but I bet it reaches every single British reader of importance to Ireland.

This is because, as a paper of record, it is guaranteed to reprint in full every docu-

ment and declaration which has littered the long and winding road of the peace process — including some which Whitehall would prefer to keep to itself and others which British newspapers think will bore their readers.

Its coverage of security issues is essential and fascinating. Its reporting on the Irish-American dimension is unrivalled. If a key player in the Irish situation wants a noticeboard for an important public statement, this is where they place it, as Gerry Adams did on Thursday and John Major did last month.

For anyone who still tries to practice textually analytical journalism, the Irish Times is a reminder of what we in this country have lost.

There is, of course, the danger that by reading the Irish Times in Britain one can become lured into seeing the Northern Ireland situation in an "Irish" way. Yet the objective qualities of the paper are very strong (they are embodied in its deeds of trust, as the Guardian's are) and it steers a cautious editorial route.

Historically, the Irish Times is a creature of the Union, founded in 1859 by Dublin Protestants and all ways (as it is still now) well

read in the North. Unlike its rivals, it is not aligned with any nationalist party. Yet one reads the Irish Times not just for its facts but also for its understanding. And this week that has been much more difficult than at any time in the past three years.

Until now, there has been a general consensus among the Irish Times's commentators (with the powerful sceptical exception of Kevin Myers) that events in the North were proceeding along a conciliatory path. There have been ups and downs and stops and goes, but overall there has been a shared understanding that everyone from Adams to Major was manoeuvring towards some kind of compromise resolution of the Northern Ireland situation.

After Manchester, that consensus has been very severely blown to the winds. After Canary Wharf it held, but not now. I have never seen so many commentators from the same newspaper interpret the same events in such wildly contradictory ways as after the Manchester bomb.

Myers says that the IRA is incapable of compromise or disarmament. On the opposite page, Vincent Browne

says it shows that there will be a ceasefire by the end of July. All except Myers believe that the republicans are engaged in a major internal argument, though no one — not even Mary Holland — seems able to prove it except by means which make 1950s Kremlinology look like an exact science.

Significantly, words like "seems" and "appears to" have started cropping up more often in the Times's front page news stories this week. I take no comfort from uncertainty at any time. But if even the sages of D'Olier Street feel unsure about where we go from here, then who am I to disagree?

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16 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To have and to have not

JOAN Smith (Letters, June 18; Women, June 17) is flinging a dead horse. Women's right not to have children was a sixties and seventies battle that has been well and truly won. The nineties fight is for the right to be able to have children.

Since the abolition of the "breadwinner" wage, families need two incomes to be solvent. Angela Phillips, looking at the Scandinavian model on the same Women's page, suggests ways in which two incomes can be maintained (parental leave, automatic subsidised child-care). These innovations would be excellent for middle-class women with careers, but are no benefit at all to working-class women, or even to middle-class women who prefer to bring up their children themselves.

The majority of women — and up-to-date research bears this out — want to stay at home. They need to be paid compensation for lost wages to do so. I think it's called "thinking the unthinkable".
Eileen Lavin,
35 Temple House,
Shoot Up Hill,
London NW3 3TD.

DESPITE your headline "Twice as many childless women as population falls" (June 14), the British popula-

tion is not falling and should not fall for another 30 years. In the meantime, as any demographer knows, a host of factors can reduce a projection to so much waste paper.

We tend to look to more immediate, technical solutions to today's problems of pollution, transport congestion, food production, unemployment etc, but population reduction for heaven's sake don't mention "planning") could be the best answer of the lot.

The Black Death of 1348, which reduced our population by a third, also heralded a golden age for British labour. Scarce labour found its crafts in increased demand; wages rose; the existing feudal system was dealt a blow from which it didn't recover.

Child-bearing should not be regarded as sacrosanct. Its effect on overall numbers and the consequences for society are worth study. Equally interesting would be the reaction of today's free-market to a reduction in our population, either by accident or design, which empowered labour as it did back in the 14th century.
W H Partridge,
Secretary,
Optimum Population Trust,
Church House,
71 Elmer Road,
Middletown-on-Sea,
West Sussex PO22 8EH.



Men behaving badly, the replay

EURO 96 is the crowning glory of the new lad culture in Britain, a culture that has finally reached saturation point. Everywhere one is assailed by the new breed of English male who suddenly seems to think it's cool to act like his early seventies Neanderthal counterpart. Football shirts, pub culture and pin ups are all increasingly back in vogue. Soon even builders will regain their lost confidence and return to leaning over scaffolding to make lewd comments at passing girls.

If English masculinity needs to be redefined for the 1990s and beyond it ought to be as new gentlemen rather than as new lads. A wave of courtesy, proper English, smart clothing, and civic spirit is what is needed.

Now would be an appropriate time for the English male to look beyond the football stadiums and the public bar, and remind himself that he have

been here, seen and done this before. We should remind ourselves that the real virtues are those of consideration, tolerance and good manners. Behaving badly at times is one thing, living life like a seventies' male stereotype is really quite another. Yours with a seat at Saturday's England v Spain game,
Michael G P Shryane,
London W14 9JS.

FURTHER to the front page report following the victory against Holland (England team performance likely to raise the score in the boardrooms and bedrooms, June 19), what about those England supporters who are married to Dutch women? Perhaps we could be told what the score is in such a situation.
Frank McKenney,
33 Gardiner Square,
Kilburn, London NW5 1X5.

Battle of the knee-jerks

THE authoritarianism of George Monbiot predicts (Why the police provoke crowds, June 20) is already advancing. We have police mounting pre-emptive strikes on the homes of people identified as burglars, football hooligans and drug dealers by video footage and "police intelligence". We have a wild-eyed Home Secretary going from excess to excess with the Labour shadow trying to out-knee-jerk him. People who have committed past offences of a sexual nature are to lose some of their rights as citizens. The independence of the judiciary is under threat. There is the sharing of computer information by government departments, and the Security Services Bill.

To accept that people who commit crime (or who might) are a sub-class who deserve to lose their basic rights is to go down the road to a totalitarian

state. The answer is to apprehend those who commit each crime and to deal with them through the legal system.
Ron Kings,
Dartford, Kent.

AT Hackney the crowd was Achased towards an enclosed shopping area rather than towards less vulnerable areas to the south. At Brixton, twice the crowd was chased into the shopping area but any other direction would have been safer. In Trafalgar Square the crowd was chased not into the park or towards the river, but into Leicester Square. Same in Islington. The police are not stupid. They have excellent video and stills photographs and no doubt they are studied. Yet confrontations continue.
Why?
David Hoffman,
21 Norman Grove,
London E3 5EG.

Labour's brains show their brawn

ERIC Hobsbawm is right to urge intellectuals to make part in the development of principles and policies for a future Labour government (If the truth be told, June 20). He is mistaken, however, in suggesting that there is "a wide gap" separating the Labour Party from "intellectuals of the left". The overwhelming response to the setting up of Nexus, a network of intellectuals of the centre-left, has demonstrated how keen many academics and policy experts are to contribute to the emerging agenda of New Labour.

Hobsbawm reprimands the Labour Party for being concerned more about its electoral chances than its intellectual foundations. But the intellectual moorings of the centre-left are themselves in need of clarification and defence. It is unacceptable for intellectuals to sit back and wait for the Labour Party to stumble upon policies that they may or may not endorse. Rather, we must try to emulate the alliance between intellectuals and policy-makers that proved so successful for the New Right from the mid-1970s onwards. Whether or not a Labour government succeeds largely depends upon the extent to which intellectuals participate in shaping the values and policies that define it.
Stewart Wood,
St John's College,
Oxford OX1 3JP.

ERIC Hobsbawm is right that the main role of the western European left has been to "regulate and socialise" capitalism rather than actively seek to replace it. If the Labour leadership is daring

now there is an opportunity to embark on a progressive and social capitalism which would fundamentally break the economic and political hegemony established by the New Right.

But it is not just Labour-leaning intellectuals who have to say what they mean. The Labour front bench, led by someone who claims to "say what he means and mean what he says", seems to say as little as possible these days.

In his recent television series and his book 'The State We're In', Will Hutton has captured the imagination of people who had no previous interest in the re-establishment of progressive social capitalism. If Labour is to harness this interest they must embrace his vision of a stakeholder economy (rather than their own no-substance, half-baked version) and they must question more openly a Maastricht Treaty committed by article 106 to putting price stability ahead of employment concerns. A new post-industrial, technological era is dawning; Labour will only make it theirs if they are frank, up-front and honest.
Simon J Kyte,
43 Sea View Road,
Sheehy,
Essex SS3 9DX.

IT WAS disappointing to read that Eric Hobsbawm thinks intellectuals have parted company with the Labour Party. Thinking in the party is currently being reactivated by new people and bodies that have sprung up in the last few years. As thinking on the right is fast discredited by its failure, the left have begun to gain more intellectual confidence and new ideas are emerging. Bodies like the

The day when Mrs Thatcher spoke and the world listened

MATTHEW Engel writes (Bush whacked, June 20) "Curiously, the Thatcher years were good for Bush House." It's not curious at all. They coincided with Mrs T taking part in her first World Phone-In. In the studio we could see realisation dawning on her face. "My God, the world's listening to me!" She had "discovered" the World Service. Maybe Joan Bird would like to face the world in a similar phone-in. He could always have an armed bodyguard posted outside the studio door — like King Hussein did. Mrs Thatcher made do with Bernard Ingham.

Broadcasting to the world, though, is largely an attitude of mind and not a matter of always discernible in Broadcasting House. Some years ago I was recording a World Service programme in one of the BBC's home studios. The unmistakable sound of a loo next door being flushed could be heard through the studio wall. "This must be the worst studio in broadcasting," sighed the studio manager. I mentioned an even more notorious one in Bush House. "Oh, I'm talking about real broadcasting," was the reply; he wasn't joking.
Dan Zerdin,
31 Circus Gardens,
London SW19 3JT.

STAFF at the BBC may have to remain quiet about their views, but as a freelance reporter and presenter for the

last 14 years (mostly for Radio 4 and the World Service) I'm able to say publicly what I actually believe, that is, I'm completely bewildered by the possible downgrading of BBC Radio.

Why squeeze to death something Britain really does better than anyone else in the world — high quality speech radio (and not very expensive at that)? Why is it that people who should be praised for consistently producing programmes that are the envy of the world are undermined and disregarded instead?

As an Anglophile American who didn't grow up with quality radio, I see BBC Radio as a whole, and the World Service in particular, as one of Britain's greatest assets. I will never understand it, through underfunding, or undermining of staff, that asset is allowed to slip away quietly.

Jean Smedegar,
46 Basalbee Road,
London N6 1QN.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 118 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number, even if e-mailed letters. We cannot acknowledge receipt of letters. We may edit them; shorter ones are more likely to appear.

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A code for quangos

IN his article on quangos (Putting a code on principles, Society, June 19) Geoff Mulgan says that the Nolan Report recommendations on public appointments were "long overdue". Mr Mulgan appears unaware that the Government has already implemented the Nolan Committee's main recommendations in this area. This includes my appointment at the end of last year as the first Commissioner for Public Appointments.

In April I published a Code of Practice for Public Appointments Procedures and guidance for government departments. The Code, which must be implemented by July 1, sets out seven principles for appointments to executive "quangos" and NEIS bodies. These include appointment on merit, independent scrutiny, probity, and transparency. In future there will be an emphasis on advertising paid posts.

Appointments should be announced and advertised in a given of any political activity other ministerial appointments held.

I am currently appointing auditors to ensure compliance with the principles and to test recommendations. As complaints procedure has already been established.

Although my responsibilities are limited to executive non-departmental public bodies and NHS bodies, a number of departments have voluntarily indicated their intention to apply the requirements to their other bodies. Nolan recommends the application of the principles of good practice on appointments to organisations outside my remit.

Sir Leonard Peach, Commissioner for Public Appointments,
OCFA, Horse Guards Road,
London SW1P 3AL.

Hunt the agenda

CLAIMS that the RSPCA has been infiltrated by the blood-sucking media have been greatly misrepresented, but a little probing would have revealed a hidden agenda (Beastliness, bunny-huggers and the RSPCA, June 20).

Pro-hunting supporters are frightened because of the massive public opposition to blood sports and the RSPCA's lobbying power, hunting with bounds will soon be abolished. This is why the BFFS perpetuates the myth that the RSPCA has been hijacked by what it refers to as animal rights "activists" or "extremists." It is an unethical way to attempt to scare off our traditional supporters.

The litmus test of whether an organisation upholds the tenets of animal welfare or supports the misguided notions of "extremists" is the issue of violence. The RSPCA is totally opposed to the use of violence, and will expel any member who flouts the society's declared policy of pursuing its aims "by all lawful means."

Finally, I am happy with the relationship we have with the Charity Commission — who, incidentally, did not order us to ban three pamphlets — and who recently announced that it had reached a satisfactory conclusion to discussions with the RSPCA about the scope of its activities.
Peter Davies,
Director General, RSPCA,
Causeway, Horsham,
West Sussex RH12 1HG.

A Country Diary

LLEYN: It's amazing to realize that last night was the shortest of the year, from now on, darkness lengths. When up in high places it's a joy to extend routes, often with the best part of days coming towards nightfall. Take, for instance, a recent bright day of sharp air, brilliant light and stiff sea breeze. After the 1,800 feet pull up Yr Eith north side from Trevor's tight-packed quarry terraces, we scanned the northern horizon for familiar profiles. There were the shining sands at Newborough, the long incline to Trevor and beyond to the defunct pier where the ground rock was sent across the seven seas. Now tin sheets off Caernarfon Bay, furze glids the abandoned man-made cliffs, a red-sailed yacht passes below our perch. Only at a late hour at this time of year does the sun get round enough to send long shadows across the grey slabs the Rivals, where once chisels rang incessantly to sledgehammer blows.
ROGER REDFERN

It's also a great cure for acne

YOU won't find the canny farmers in our neck of the woods pouring good whisky down a cow's throat in order to secure a BSE diagnosis with full compensation (Letters, June 20).

A litre or two of methylated spirit has a similar effect and is far cheaper. Moreover, the smell is quite easily explained away, as meths is an old-fashioned remedy for warble-like lesions and ABA (aggravated bovine acne).
Michael O'Gallachóir,
Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13.

THERE is an obvious solution to abuse in children's homes (Letters, June 12, 17, 19): as the perpetrators are male, employ solely female staff.
Stephen O'Connor,
59 Hassock Lane, Shipley,
Derbyshire DE75 7JD.

John Miles 150

Strike a pose, nothing to it

Attitude, says MARK SIMPSON, is the essential survival tactic for the self-assured nineties

attitude as starlion. This was taken up by Madonna and disseminated into the mainstream in Vogue, the single that has turned out to be the definitive nineties record. Ladies with an attitude, men who are in the mood. Don't just stand there, strike a pose: there's nothing to it - Vogue. From this strain of attitude the cult of the supermodel and then, logically, that of the drag queen developed.

DON'T know what I want but I know how to get it" spat Johnny Rotten two decades ago. Now he and the other Pistols have decided that what they want is your money and are reforming to record a live album in Finsbury Park tomorrow to get it. It's possible to boil down all those learned treatises on the meaning of punk to the simple observation that the Sex Pistols had the two qualities that young people find irresistible: 1) they appeared not to give a f--- and 2) they seemed to know exactly what they were about even, and especially when, they had no idea themselves.

Taken together, these attributes of the last gasp of a vanguardism and youth rebellion amounted to what is nowadays called "attitude" and is turning out to be the mainstream sensibility of the nineties, particularly when it comes to selling. Crisps are marketed with it. Advertisers for fizzy drinks feature teenagers discussing it. Sad, late night ITV schedules are trailed as "Television with attitude". There's even a magazine for young gay men which calls itself Attitude.

But what is "attitude"? Originally US shorthand for "bad attitude" and used, no doubt, by parents and teachers to characterise the failings of young people who didn't comb their hair or sit up straight and were thus the Least Likely to Succeed. "Attitude" has come to stand for a Brand-name spunky self-assurance, individualism and refusal to be ground down.

In other words, all the things that today are associated with success. Attitude — the distillation of rebelliousness in a world with nothing left to rebel against — has become a highly profitable commodity. The antonym of attitude these days is loser.

While it was punk's codification of music, fashion and youth rebellion into a demagogic which gave a voice to the "blank generation" and a sneer to wear with it, it was rap culture in the eighties (which had racism to rebel against) which used the word and put it to work as Niggers With Attitude. "Tude" is a form of "upplityness", a kind of overestimation of oneself, a refusal to internalise the value placed upon you by society. This is manifested in the calculatedly self-important expressions and aggressively grandiose gestures of rap.

But for all its association with black culture, attitude is not the same thing as cool. Cool is a state of being; attitude is a state of projection (and here related to that other tired cliché of the nineties "in-your-face"). Cool is essential; attitude is incidental. Cool is deep; attitude is proudly, fiercely shallow. Surprisingly, perhaps, attitude is not a million miles away from camp.

This is most flamboyantly apparent in gay black culture and the practice of "voguing", or "giving good face", where what is being perfected is the appearance of success, fame, glamour through frenetic hand movements and disdainful facial expressions. Attitude as a form of "looked-at-ness", or "look-at-me-ness":

The fact that "there's nothing to it" is its greatest appeal. "Tude" is arguably the true manifestation of "style" in the nineties. In the eighties style became synonymous with "grooming" and "fashion". Style became rather unironic, rather prissy. It became too closely associated with upward mobility. Attitude, on the other hand, pretends it doesn't give a damn while watching for your reaction out of the corner of its eye.

It is also a way of "branding" yourself: appearing a victor instead of a victim, active in a world of passive consumption, convinced in a world of confusion. This is why stand-up comedians and shock jocks be-



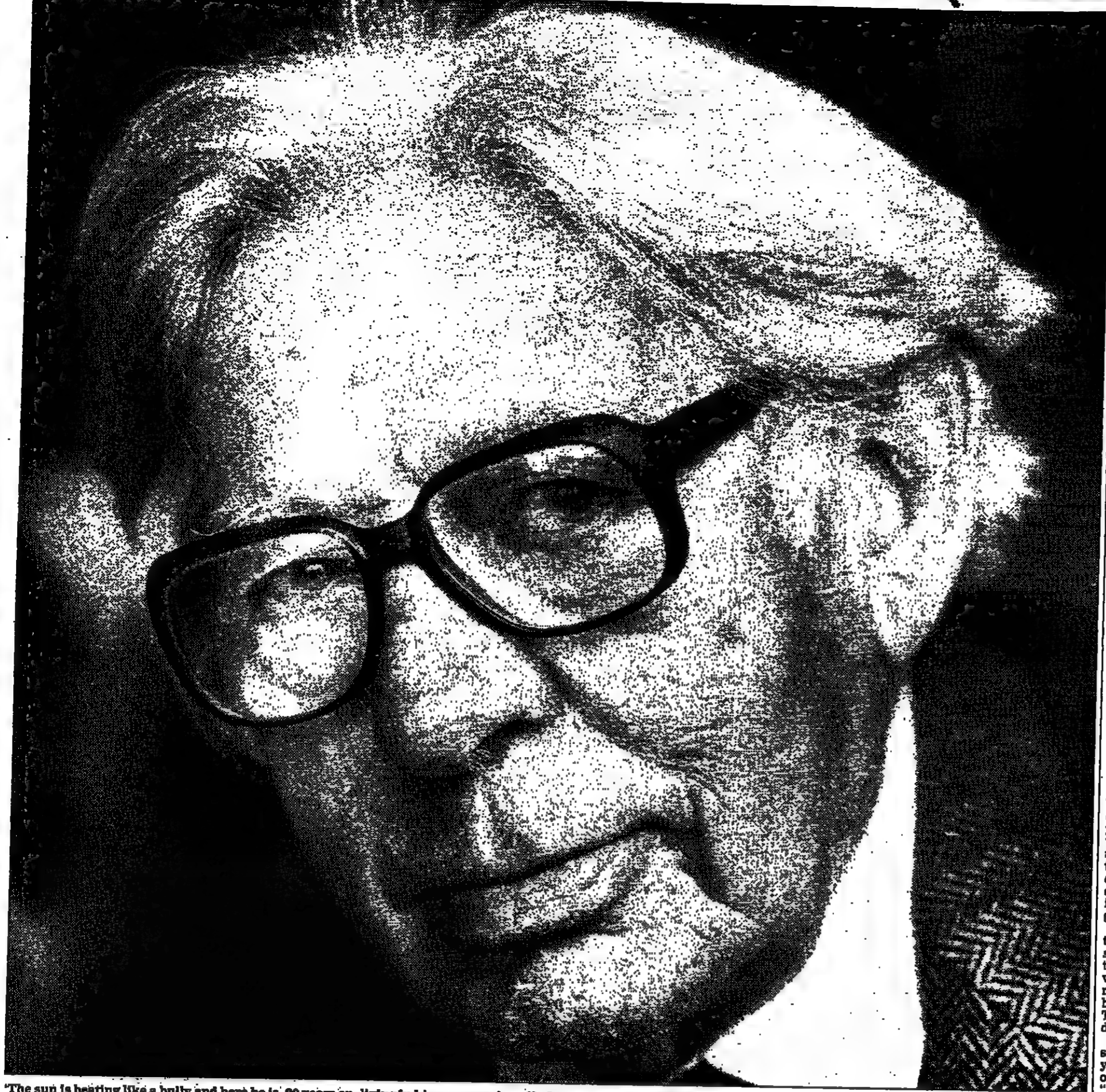
come such folk heroes in the post-ideological nineties, their cynicism, anger and front represented a kind of inspiration.

"Tude" is essentially amoral, a solvent for moralism, earnestness and political correctness. Hence "tude" was an important part of New Labour's rhetorical response to feminism and the masculinity crisis: "You gotta roll with it. You gotta go with it. Don't let anyone stand in your way."

After the failure of freedom in the sixties and ambition in the seventies, one of the things that got people to believe in in the run up to the millennium is courage. "Don't know what I want but I know how to get it" has turned out to be the pretty vacant pose of the *fin de siècle*.

In yer face

- With Tude
 - Quentin Tarantino
 - Liam Gallagher
 - Michael Fortillo
 - Ruby Wax
 - Chris Evans
 - O J Simpson
 - The Big Breakfast
 - Pamela Anderson
 - Tango
 - Mrs Bertone
 - Armando Iannucci
- Without Tude
- Oliver Stone
 - Damon Albarn
 - John Major
 - Dani Behr
 - Chris Tarrant
 - Richard & Judy
 - Demi Moore
 - Pepsi
 - Janet Jackson
 - David Baddiel



The sun is beating like a bully and here he is, 80 years on, living in his same precious Slad... PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER JONES

Born into a 'nest of women', Laurie Lee craves their adoration and sings the praises of their sex. Should we believe him? And why this dark obsession with 'concealment'?

Love... love me do



The Joanna Coles interview

AURIE LEE is sitting, as he promised he would be, underneath an umbrella outside the Woolpack Inn, clutching two mobile phones and guarding a box of cool drinks thoughtfully provided by the landlord who has just had to nip into Stroud. He is also trying to shake off a tourist who, much to Lee's annoyance, has just accosted him with the phrase: "You look as if you live round here, where are all the wild orchids then?"

"And I wish to declare one thing. I am a person of concealment... I am a very concealed person. No one has ever managed to get through..."

Oh God, I begin to worry, what sort of gauntlet is this? He holds up his hand. "But I was intrigued by your letter," he continues. "You said you wanted to talk to me, among other things, about love."

"I wrote *Cider With Rosie* in an attic in London; I couldn't have written it here," he says suddenly.

"Why not?" "Follow that red car. You can only write about something either you think is lost or at a distance. You can't write about love while you're still in bed. You can't write a love story in a bedroom. I had to be in London, I had to get the atmosphere blowing through the distance of time."

As we manoeuvre our way into the Eggleston Inn car park, he takes another mouthful of whisky and tells me about a young Spanish woman who once made a sign of the cross before she tragically seduced him. This, he says grinning at the bottle, is his equivalent of crossing himself.

"I can't imagine a day goes by without my not being obsessed by the idea of women," he goes on. "Can I express their importance. They are right and day."

giving forces I need and rely on. You know," he muses, "I think you have to be rather sophisticated to be a real misogynist."

Here, of course, he is being disingenuous. Armed with his memberships of the Garrick and Chelsea Arts Club, Lee himself is wildly urbane, though he likes to play up the Gloucestershire butt. But how, I wonder, when he started writing, did he cope with the likes of W H Auden, Cyril Connolly and Stephen Spender, who must have seemed worlds apart when they first published his poems in *Horizon*?

He writes more about such friends in his second slice of autobiography — *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning* — the sequel to *CWR* and a chronicle of his walking around Spain as a young man. It took him 10 years to write. The final slice, *A Moment of War* — describing his close shave during the Spanish Civil War — was not published until 22 years later. Excluding

he swells volumes of poetry, why did it take him so long to write four books?

Living off royalties from *CWR* — which was published in 1959 and has now sold six million copies — he would write every day from 10am until 6pm, with a 4B pencil so that nobody could hear him. When he and Cathy moved back to Slad from London (they still keep a flat in Chelsea) he recorded the sound of a typewriter so people would hear it and keep away. "But all the time I was writing away with my 4B pencil — a quiet Rolls Royce noise, because I have this in-built secrecy."

"No, no," shouts Lee impulsively. "Put it back. Put it back." He turns to scold Cathy. "They're my biscuits. I should be the one to offer them."

offers it. I take it. And I catch a fugitive glimpse of what he must be like to live with. Of a man who wrote beautiful, brilliant prose, but who took so long to write it.

And as for his obsession with concealment? What can this mean? The real identity of Rosie Burdock, who stole his virginity? Was there a product of that hasty union? And what am I to make of this anecdote which he whispers as I climb into the car.

"I remember nanny, in a house where I was a lodger once, saying about me, 'Why's he so nice?' And I thought to myself 'Oh, little do they know...'"

I catch a fugitive glimpse of what he must be like to live with. Of a man who wrote beautiful, brilliant prose, but who took so long to write it

THE SOLO ALBUM FROM THE GUITAR OF DIRE STRAITS

MARK KNOPFLER
golden heart

Includes the singles Darling Pretty and Cannibals

18 ARTS

Once they were dubbed the best in the universe. They're back — but not on form — at the Forum

And The Band played on...

TWENTY years ago, a five-piece praised by George Harrison as "the best band in the universe" bowed out with a spectacular concert that featured everyone who was anyone in the rock establishment of the day, including, of course, Bob Dylan, for whom they had once worked as a legendary backing band. The Band's "last waltz" was recycled as a triple album and a feature film directed by Martin Scorsese.

That should have been that. A memorable full stop to the career of the Canadians who, remarkably, had managed to evoke and celebrate the spirit of rural America and the South with their unique blend of country, New Orleans funk and balladry. Their song-writer and guitarist Robbie Robertson left for a patchy solo career in Los Angeles, but the rest kept getting together for reunions, even after the suicide of Richard Manuel 10 years ago.

Robin Denselow



GEOFF DYER reveals what keeps drawing him and John Berger back to the battlefield

The silence of the Somme

SEVERAL summers ago, on impulse, I decided to visit the cemeteries on the Somme. I bought a map and decided that Thiepval, with the nearby "Memorial to the Missing", was as good a place as anywhere to head for. I didn't know what to expect. Certainly, nothing could have prepared me for the power of the experience. Confronted for the first time by the memorial and its immense, simple inscription, "THE MISSING OF THE SOMME", and by the names of 73,077 men who died here but whose bodies were never identified, something in me became very still and I began to listen. Far from being the result of an idle whim, coming here began to feel like the fulfilment of an obligation: to keep a rendezvous arranged years earlier, perhaps before I was even born.

A week later I was back again. I kept going back, kept wondering how this memorial drew me here. What was it that continued to bind us to the terrible events of 80 years ago? What was the nature of the past's power to haunt the present? To answer these questions it was necessary to ask others: what did I bring with me to this place? What baggage — cultural, autobiographical, historical, literary — did the present bring to bear on the past?

the Somme? Producer Roger Elwood was adamant. If we were talking about the Cenotaph in Whitehall, or the Charles Sargeant Jagger memorial at Faddington, then we had to be there. I'd heard of local radio, but this was site-specific. Still, I was intrigued by this fidelity to a place's (trivially?) unique acoustic. Especially since one of the peculiarities of Edwin Lutyens' memorial at Thiepval is that it is utterly unphotographable. No image conveys its scale, its grace. It is diminished by photographs in a way that even the pyramids are not. Could its nodality be captured on radio?

We had hired a house a few kilometres from the Somme to use as HQ, but it turned out to be less conveniently located than expected. "Show me where the house is on the map," snapped Roger, our commander. It was almost midnight and we had expected to be billeted by tea-time. "Uh, it's not actually on this map, Roger." An excellent start! If the Somme was a triumph of mis-planning we were evidently imbuing the authentic spirit of the past. Undaunted, we set off for Thiepval at first light the next day. Except this was January, and the light didn't put in an appearance until a few hours before sundown. And it was freezing. The catastrophic first day of the Somme, remember, was blazing hot, and it had been a similarly perfect day when I first came here. What, in summer, is one of the most beautiful places imaginable becomes, in

winter, one of the bleakest. In addition to the constant risk of injury and death, the soldiers had to contend with four winters of this damp, numbing cold.

Against all odds, the writer John Berger's father had survived those four winters as an officer on the Western Front. Berger himself was born in 1926 and spent his boyhood at a time when the war was being intensely recalled in memoirs. "It seems now that I was so near to that war," he wrote in a poem, but this was

the first time he had visited the memorial at Thiepval. Remembering the impact it had made on me, Roger decided that John should take a portable DAT machine, approach the monument on his own and record his thoughts. From the car we saw him in his white raincoat, dwarfed by the huge arches, speaking into the microphone, looking, bizarrely, as if he were commenting on the 3.15 at Haydock. He came back to the car and we listened to the tape. Nothing.

After much rewinding we found five minutes of recording. After that the batteries had gone flat: the intense cold had been too much for them. Not to worry, said John. It was appropriate, no? What we should do, he said, was go to a cafe where he would tell the story of what had happened. It seemed a great idea to me: anything to be inside in the warm. Above the din of jukebox and fruit machines, John explained what the memorial which defied cameras had proved resistant to the latest recording technology.

The cafe was packed with teenagers: how strange it must be to grow up in an area where the past is always keeping the present at bay. Especially at another cafe near Pozières where we ended up the following day after recording, successfully, in the nearby cemetery. A selection of shells were piled up in the window. On the wall were posters from veterans, signed books by the many well-known Great War authorities who regularly visited the cafe. The owners, M. Brehier and his family, were custodians of the past, devoted to unearthing and preserving whatever bits and pieces of memorabilia they could lay their hands on. Hand singular in M. Brehier's case: the other, we assumed, had been blown off in the course of a battle, and the shells, even in this respect his fidelity to the past was unflinching: the artificial limb was itself an authentic piece of early 20th century, heavy industrial iron-monogery! After plying us with

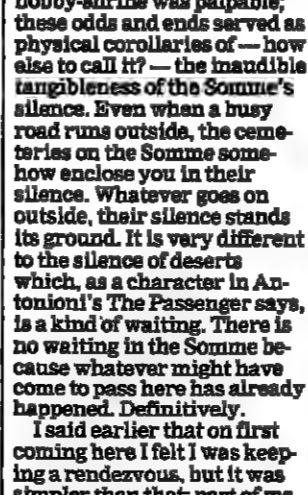
cake and coffee, the Brehiers showed us into the back room: a haphazard collection of stuff recovered from the battlefields: rusty guns, rusty tinners, sightless binoculars, buttons, peeling boots. How old everything seemed! Not 80 years old, not even eight hundred. More like eight thousand, as if from the dawn of history.

This assortment of relics convinced me that Roger was right in insisting on coming to Thiepval, to record. The part in that DIY-museum and bobby-abrine was palpable; these odds and ends served as physical corollaries of — how else to call it? — the inaudible tangibility of the Somme's silence. Even when a busy road runs outside, the cemeteries on the Somme somehow enclose you in their silence. Whatever goes on outside, their silence stands up to the silence of deserts which, as a character in Antonioni's *The Passenger* says, is a kind of waiting. There is no waiting in the Somme because whatever might have come to pass here has already happened. Definitely.

I said earlier that on first coming here I felt I was keeping a rendezvous, but it was simpler than that: part of me — part of us — is already here. We are the past, we are the silence of the Somme — listening, after all, is a form of thinking — a rare depth and clarity of feeling begins to articulate itself within us. Ideally, we would have broadcast that silence; failing that, we recorded the words which are the shadows it casts.

The *Missing Of The Somme* is published by Penguin (£5.99). "A Shadow Into The Future" will be broadcast on Radio 3 at 5.45 pm, June 30.

More than 400,000 troops were killed in the disastrous Battle of the Somme (above). Geoff Dyer and John Berger (above, left to right) visited the area for a radio programme. Berger recorded his thoughts. The tape came out blank.



MAH PHOTOGRAPHY CAMERA PRESS



There is no waiting in the Somme because whatever might have come to pass here has already happened

After the yellow brick road

Radio Anne Karpf

TOM STOPPARD has a lot to answer for. He wasn't the first dramatist to take characters from another writer's work and embellish them, but in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* he did it so wittily and on such a grand scale that thereafter nobody in literature was safe: any minor character in one writer's work could become the star of another's and the glorious hero of that piece might metamorphose into a crabby bit-part in this.

Adrian Mourby has built a whole series purporting to show the afterlife of well-known or mythical characters. But the trouble with such narrative transpositions is that you need, at the very least, to match the skills of the first author in eloquence and imagination. What's more if you ambush Dorothy from *The Wizard Of Oz* for your heroine, as Mourby has done in *Whatever Happened to Dorothy?* (Radio 4), you must reckon with an audience that knows the original back-wards. In Dorothy's case there's the added difficulty of the character's close identifica-

tion with Judy Garland, who herself never made it beyond the rainbow: an old Dorothy inescapably suggests an old Monroe, and so on — we crave a glimpse of the man, had been given "a place instead of a heart". I'd be willing to concede that my irritation was merely resistance to the desecration of a classic, were it not for the horrible mismatch of acting styles. While Dorothy (June Barrie) spoke like a proper aged Southern dame, her English interlocutor sounded as if he hailed from an altogether different planet. Broad-

casting House perhaps? A new player joined the Euro 96 squads this week — Radio 5 Live. The network made its first impact on the game on Tuesday when Scotland played Switzerland at Villa Park, while England played Holland at Wembley. When Holland scored their late goal, the Scottish coach, who'd clearly been listening to Radio 5 Live's commentary on the match, changed his team's tactics, mindful of their new need to score. On Wednesday, the network's role was even more visible. At one point BBC TV cameras showed the Italian fans at Old Trafford, trammles clamped to their ears, celebrating not because of anything happening on the field in front of them, but because the score in the other match over at Anfield meant that, if Italy merely drew their game, this would be sufficient to gain them a quarter-final place. But the TV commentators, their eyes trained on the Italian match, didn't know the Anfield score and so could only guess why the Italians were rejoicing. To deal with this I've devised a strategy: you listen to Euro 96 on Radio 5 Live and then, when you hear a goal, you rush to the telly for the action replay. Is this what they mean by the multi-media environment?

Why aliens are alienated

Television

Nancy Banks-Smith

GILLIAN Anderson, aka Agent Scully, who has this strange power of being able to walk around crumbling buildings while reading an autotape, solved the problem of aliens at a stroke in *Future Fantastic* (BBC1).

"Unwittingly, we've been sending signals into space for much longer than we've been listening," she said, pacing about the customary dump. "Every day television signals burst through the earth's atmosphere, out through the solar system and beyond. I wonder what aliens will make of them."

And that, as my father used to say, accounts for the milk in the coconut and the hair on the exterior. It explains everything. The aliens' absolute determination to keep their distance. Their utter reluctance to return our phone calls.

We have been bombarding them with TV for 60 years or so, and they think we're all like that. I have been bombarded with TV for 30 years or so and the net effect, I can tell you, is a simple desire to go and sit on a nice, sharp mountain peak with room for one only. As far as possible from Jim Davidson, Loyd Grossman, Dale Winton, Ulrika Johnsson, Richard and Judy, O.J. Simpson, The Simpsons...

Actually, I wouldn't mind meeting anyone from *The Flintstones* and, weirdly enough, the first couple to claim they had been abducted by aliens were called Barney and Betty. A very understandable mistake on the part of the aliens. Nowadays, if you believe statistics, one per cent of Americans believe they have been abducted by aliens.

What will the aliens make of their 10-week bombardment by Savannah (ITV)? A major series — there is no such thing as a minor series — seething with illicit passion, intense jealousy and murderous adultery. It says here.

You can read and reread the synopsis of Savannah very slowly and still fail to get a fingerhold on it. "Tom introduces Reese to his younger brother Vincent, who has just been released from prison. The bartenders express concern but Reese believes he is OK when she witnesses him help a little girl get a stain out of her doll."

What? Let's begin at the beginning. There are these three girls Reese, Lane and Peyton. No, those are their first names. Reese, dim but rich, is going to marry Travis. Little does she know that Travis is two-timing her with Peyton, who wears exciting suspenders. And little does Peyton know that Travis is short-changing her with a zircon, not a diamond bracelet. Zircons are a boy's best bet. When Peyton realises this low rate, she breathes passionately, rising exuberantly out of her strapless ball gown. (Costumes by Breeze Brooks.)

Travis' role is on the short side. Lane threatens to kill him as painfully as possible, Reese kneels him in the groin and Peyton whacks him over the head with a bottle and bundles the body into her boot. Which only goes to show you shouldn't get in the way of a southern belle when she's swinging.

You fram

station by GFF GRAND

The Tragedy of King Richard III RSC ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY. David Troughton gives a remarkably compelling and poignant performance. A big florid production. Observer Times.

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Handwritten signature and date: 20/11/1950

You've been framed



Illustration by GEOFF GRANDFIELD

Fly-on-the-wall documentaries are the new soaps - cheap and compelling. So are we looking at the next wave of trash TV, asks STUART JEFFRIES

WORSE things can happen. Earlier this year, a Channel 4 documentary crew was thrown out of the Daily Express while making a fly-on-the-wall film about the ailing newspaper. "They seemed to distrust our bona fides," says *Cutting Edge* editor Peter Moore. "In a sense one doesn't blame them for not having cameras in during this difficult time - with Lord Hollick taking over and the revelations about various correspondents who don't vote Tory. It was an interesting institution dying on its feet."

Perhaps the Express management was right. Not just because it's unwise to allow outsiders to intrude on private misery, but because the history of the fly-on-the-wall documentary suggests that there is not a great deal to be gained from lying back and thinking of the publicity. But their action is the exception that proves the rule: from the Royal Opera House to drug addicts on the run, documentary makers have little difficulty in finding willing subjects to expose themselves.

What's more, during the summer and autumn there will be a glut of observational documentaries, often probing into the hidden workings of secretive institutions. BBC1 has a documentary series *The Calling*, about a theological college in Birmingham. It will also show *Defence of the Realm* about the MOD. BBC2 is soon to show a documentary series about the DSS. Just before the Olympic Games opens next month, BBC1 will screen Michael Waldman's *The Greatest Show on Earth* about how the \$1 billion events in Atlanta were organised. Not to be outdone, Channel 4 offers a two-part observational investigation into the Foreign Legion next week. Nobody, it seems, but the most media-aware are prepared to show the media the door.

And there are likely to be even more cheaply made, glossy-looking fly-on-the-wall documentaries: Hi-8 video technology improves the quality of images and reduces by as much as tenfold the costs of location work. Soon the results of digital Hi-8 technology, which makes editing easier, will be shown on our screens. "It certainly makes fly-on-the-wall documentaries much easier," says Stephen Lambert, editor of BBC2's stylish, successful, but sometimes suspect documentary strand, *Modern Times*. "People forget you are there. I think there'll be more and more of them."

Moore, Channel 4's senior commissioning editor of documentaries, counters: "There's a tendency to think of these innovations in the same way as the invention of the Biro. Now we can all be Shakespeares. Well, we can't. You'll never replace the genius of great professional cameramen."

All of this technological innovation is remote from the first modern fly-on-the-wall documentary *The Family*, a 1974 BBC series which laid bare the intimate lives of the Wilkins of Reading. For 12 weeks this was an unmissable soap, all the more so because it was real life unfolding before us. There were only two scenes the film-makers weren't allowed to capture: going to the toilet or making love. In a memorable exchange in 1988, Margaret Wilkins asked producer Paul Watson: "Why did you choose us?" "Because you were just an ordinary, close-knit family who cared about each other." "Rubbish," replied Mrs Wilkins. "You couldn't believe you'd found so many good stories under one roof." Four years after the documentary, Mr and Mrs Wilkins divorced.

During the eighties and nineties the trend developed, with fly-on-the-wall documentaries about Queen's College Cambridge and Channel 4's portrait of Northwood Golf Club, whose committee members were depicted as sexist suburban snobs. The BBC offered *Fishing Party* about four risible rich chaps - one of whom was fined after he was filmed shooting a seagull. The common appeal of these films was reduced the narrator's role to merely supplying informational links, allowing the argument (if there is one) to develop through editing. The trend towards them comes partly through exasperation at the ego-driven documentary in favour of films which have a strong sense of the maker's signature (usually defined in terms of the director's visual flair), Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* strand is keener to explicitly express its view of the world through commentary. There may be a hint of revenge about this: Lambert went to work on the BBC's *40 Minutes* in the late eighties, a strand which was effectively superseded by *Cutting Edge*'s in-your-face style. Now *Modern Times*, with atmospheric, observational films about such subjects as house-

grammes have minimal if any commentary. Increasingly, documentaries are divided into the ego-driven and those which, if they have a line to tout, do so through astute juxtaposition of talking scenes.

It would be a mistake, though, to argue that the egos have landed. For every fly-on-the-wall documentary, recently, there has been (thankfully) an educational series presented by the likes of Andrew Graham-Dixon, Steve Jones or Richard Mabey - intellectuals who have been allowed to present highly personalised arguments. (It is symptomatic of Channel 4's decline that these three were broadcast on BBC2.) But these excellent series, which have changed little since Kenneth Clark's *Civilisation*, will always be around while television is properly fulfilling its public service remit. The more significant trend is towards gonzo documentaries - television's version of Hunter S Thompson's journalism - where the egotistical presenter makes himself part of the story. Nick Broomfield or Ray Gosling, for instance, are quirky personalities who insert themselves knowingly into each scene so that the chief subject of their films is always themselves.

As for fly-on-the-wall documentaries, they have often reduced the narrator's role to merely supplying informational links, allowing the argument (if there is one) to develop through editing. The trend towards them comes partly through exasperation at the ego-driven documentary in favour of films which have a strong sense of the maker's signature (usually defined in terms of the director's visual flair), Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* strand is keener to explicitly express its view of the world through commentary. There may be a hint of revenge about this: Lambert went to work on the BBC's *40 Minutes* in the late eighties, a strand which was effectively superseded by *Cutting Edge*'s in-your-face style. Now *Modern Times*, with atmospheric, observational films about such subjects as house-

husbands, a day at a London lido, flatmates and training to be a black cab driver, may, for the moment, have stolen *Cutting Edge*'s clothes.

Peter Moore is sanguine about this: "My view is that the documentary is in a permanent state of crisis and that's healthy because it means it's responding to new market pressures."

But he believes that commentary is often important. "Some disembodied, foreign, alien voice is often seen as inappropriate, as somehow interrupting the natural flow between audience and subject," says Moore. "A lot of film-makers feel they have failed if they get very defensive. I'm personally quite a keen advocate for commentary whenever the need arises."

He recalls working on a *Cutting Edge* programme

close relationship with the engaged *colporteur*, Ian Taylor's film aims to investigate the psyches of the men with no name. Here commentary is an interference, a stumbling block to an intimate portrait.

There is a pressure on documentary-makers to delve deeper into their subjects' souls. Increasingly, the buzz words are "quality of access": the most admired directors and producers are those who can insinuate themselves into the homes or the backrooms of the most unlikely people, and produce observational studies which appear to do the subjects no favours.

The best recent example of this was a film in the *Modern Times* season called *Quality Time*, in which three rich working women were depicted dealing coldly with their children and offensively with their nannies. The most upsetting moment was when, in an off-the-shoulder ball gown at a business buffet which doubled as a birthday party for a daughter, one of the subjects, Dominique, burst into tears and admitted she had neglected her child. "I haven't really been a mum to her today, and I don't know how to apologise," she said.

"Wouldn't it be better to live in a shed and have the kids all the time. I don't know - I haven't got an answer for that." She told this to the film crew while her daughter was crying upstairs.

There was no commentary in Amanda Richardson's film, just clever editing which, through cunning juxtaposition, built up a story of the women who employed the nannies, as freaks and callous parents. The result was that we became angry voyeurs, condemning more and perhaps understanding less.

Like many observational documentaries, the film raised a host of moral questions. Were we being left to make our own judgments, or were those being foisted on us by sneaky editing? Was this a frank show masquerading as observation of an interesting social trend? Were the subjects exploited? Should we care?

Lambert points out that this film was shown to the subjects and they did not object. But then, the committee of Northwood Golf Club praised the makers of the documentary which, when broadcast, caused such a furore that they resigned. Showing the films to the subjects does not absolve the makers of responsibility or mean that the subjects are aware of how they will appear to viewers.

"If people see the films and say some scene is unfair it becomes a factor, and in many cases we have to say it is important to the story. We never surrender editorial control," says Lambert. No doubt, when the subjects of *Quality Time* saw themselves as they expected, and may well have been shocked only later at how

they were condemned in press comment.

The Daily Telegraph recently took a tough line on those who participate in such documentaries: "Those who appear in a fly-on-the-wall are either desperate to be on television or so vain as to believe their life deserves a wider audience." There is a danger that these films privilege the show-off - the vulgar or the ludicrous inevitably make better subjects for television.

But that is not always the case, as Lambert argues: "We are much happier laughing at middle-class people's bad taste or vanity. When they look ridiculous in documentaries, there's a sense of 'more fool them' among some viewers. While, with working class people the question of exploitation seems to arise more readily."

There is a danger that, in the drive to get better, more intimate footage of people in compelling situations, questions of privacy, dignity or exploitation will get left behind. Viewers are now conditioned to expect that an observational documentary will really get under the skin of its subjects. As a result, the intriguing experience of watching Paul Berriff's recently concluded Channel 4 series *Astronauts* was that the documentary-maker managed to film little but NASA PR-speak from the crew of Endeavour space shuttle, *Discovery*. Even though he had spent a year with them building up a rapport, Moore concedes: "We are toolers in the vineyard and sometimes we get good stuff without trying. But sometimes not."

ONE OF the most significant of those directors who pursue quality of access with remark-able zeal is Michael Waldman, whose BBC2 documentary series *The House* is the latest in a career built on talking himself and his camera crew into situations where access is usually denied. In the past he was responsible for *Queen's College, Cambridge*, the 1982 series which often showed the quad square in all their varied squabbles; this year he is making a two-part documentary about behind the scenes at the Olympics, called *The Greatest Show on Earth*. Waldman's buzz words, it seems, are ingratiation and duplicity: "One is persuading people, often against their better judgment, that there is more to be gained than lost from appearing."

"What you see is the consequence of my refusing to allow the door to be closed in my face three times a day," says Waldman. "There were small negotiations early on to agree access, but having got that what's then needed is not to allow them to control what we're doing even though nominally everybody is saying that it'll be all right."

When the first instalment of *The House* was broadcast earlier this year, critics thought it extraordinary that the Royal Opera House had let the camera crews in. But Waldman contends that, by the end of the series, Jeremy Isaacs was thought of as shrewd for doing so. "Isaacs said, 'Perhaps we were naive.' But Jeremy

doesn't feel we abused his trust. He was slightly taken aback by what it all consisted of. The making of it was all consuming, it was an endless game of political footwork." Not to mention duplicity.

"There was a kind of duplicity about it. I couldn't say to the box office manager: 'I understand you're going to be sacked, can I film it?' I couldn't say to X that I'd be on meeting A, you're likely to be given the snick. Rather I would go to X and chat about the subject and reveal that they were having meetings and see how X reacted. One was juggling in one's hand - it is intellectually very taxing. I was duplicitous in the general sense of not being able to reveal my knowledge."

Most importantly, Waldman ingratiated himself with everybody in Florida Street. "I made it my business to form relationships with everybody, from the handy man to the general manager." And this paid off. He recalls filming the diva who was sick and yet sang Carmen. "I was doing an interview outside her dressing room door. Listening for the music knowing she would have to emerge from the door when it reached a certain point. At that point I hadn't gone into the dressing room because that would have been an interruption which would not only have been undesirable but intrusive. But the diva emerges and faces the camera crew. She could have said get the camera out of here, but I took a deep breath and hoped she wouldn't. And she didn't: she thought it was nice Michael rather than the media. We had become part of the furniture."

Was there ever an occasion when he was refused access? "The only point at which they did say positively no was one particular meeting about the reasons a particular ballet dancer was being got rid of and we didn't even argue about that."

Is there more to his work than just intrusive entertainment? "Heavens, yes. It isn't just about a British opera house. It's about art in its widest sense. It asks the questions: what is beauty? What is splendour? It shows all the work

leading to the pure beauty on the stage. It's also about Britain in the nineties, job insecurity, the class system."

This is true, but perhaps the main reason *The House* and similar documentaries are so appealing is that they disclose real-life embarrassments. There is a hunger among audiences to see other's professional and personal lives skillfully revealed in all their shamefulness and silliness.

It is a hunger which is going to be well fed on British television in the near future. Stephen Lambert even talks about plans for a documentary soap. "It'll be in nine or 10 episodes. There'll be the same people each week. It doesn't sound like a radical development - after all, *The Family* was doing something similar more than 20 years ago. But one can see the temptation to tap into this rich seam: no actors, no scripts, no narrators, cheap to produce and compelling to watch. Given that television dramas and even soap operas rarely show Britain as it is, fly-on-the-wall and documentary soaps could move in to fill the gap. But in no way do either amount to realism: they privilege the self-regarding, the in-truth-life, those who don't mind making fools of themselves for camera. They sound alarmingly like *Dallas*.

The only stumbling block to this trend is that the supply of potables will dry up. But, given the pressures on documentary-makers to produce cheap, glossy entertainment, they are likely to be out there, hunting for subjects for their real-life dramas. Perhaps we should all be afraid. As Jeremy Beadle warns at the end of each *You've Been Framed*: "Who knows, next week the star of the show could be you."

The Foreign Legion goes out on Monday at 9pm on Channel 4. The Calling starts on June 29 on BBC2. Defence of the Realm starts on August 15 on BBC1. The first part of Michael Waldman's The Greatest Show on Earth will be shown on BBC1 on July 16. Cutting Edge and Modern Times return in the autumn. Stuart Jeffries is a Guardian television critic.

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David Schine

McCarthy's witchfinder private

DAVID Schine, who was killed in a plane crash in California on Wednesday at the age of 68, was at the centre of a clash between the United States Army and Senator Joe McCarthy...



The private and the senator... David Schine with Joseph McCarthy

PHOTOGRAPH POPPERFOTO

One of McCarthy's charges, pressed by Cohn, was that the US Army's Communications Command at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, was a nest of subversion. While the Army was at war with McCarthy and Cohn, Schine was drafted into it as a conscript.

Schine was educated at Andover, one of the most prestigious schools in the United States, and at Harvard. He became president of his father's hotel companies but his main interests then were nightclubs, start-ups and fast cars...

communist-bumbers in the McCarthy entourage. He had come to the attention of right-wingers, however, by writing and putting in every one of his father's hotel rooms, a pamphlet called Definition of Communism.

ample, because the two found defective stories by a pro-communist writer on the shelves of the US International Information Agency.

tried to bring pressure to give Schine a commission. The committee heard evidence that Cohn had repeatedly asked for Schine to be given a posting to New York to study the use of pro-communist literature at West Point...

Weekend Birthdays

What a novel The Story of Esther Rantzen would be! The first part sounds like a Margaret Forster — a sexiest secretary who lives with mother, does radio sound-effects for the BBC — thud of falling corpses — then files 23,000 photos, becomes researcher whose energy zings onscreen in magazine-type programme.

Today's other birthdays: Sir Peter Dinklage, chief constable, 67; Jack Bailey, former secretary, MCC, 68; Danny Baker, broadcaster, 39; Prof Sheila Hollins, psychiatrist, 50; Lord Hunt, mountaineer, 85; Bruce Kent, nuclear disarmament, 67; Kris Kristofferson, singer, and actor, 60; Libor Pesek, conductor, 63; Arabella Pollen, fashion designer, 35; Dame Cicely Saunders OM, founder of the hospice movement, 76; Prunella Scales, actress, 64; Meryl Streep, actress, 47; Lord Wakeham, chairman, Press Complaints Commission, 64; Billy Wilder, film director and screenwriter, 90.



76: Adam Faith, former rock singer, 58; The Most Rev Dr John Habgood, former Archbishop of York, 63; Miriam Karlin, actress, 71; Dave King, comedian, 47; Dame Sheila Masters, accountant, former finance director, NHS, 47; Anne Owens, director, Justice, 49; Prof Sir Martin Rees, astronomer, 54; Prof Isaac Schapera, anthropologist, 91; Prof Lord Soulsby, veterinary surgeon, Professor of Animal Pathology, Cambridge University, 70; The Rt Rev Keith Sutton, Bishop of Lichfield, 62; Anthony Thwaites, poet, 65; Kathleen Wilkes, philosopher, 50; Irene Worth, actress, 80.

Dr R A Hughes

Doctor with a mission

JUST before the outbreak of the second world war Arthur Hughes and his young wife Nancy sailed for India. By St David's Day 1939 he had started work at the Khast Hills Welsh Mission Hospital in Shillong — and a legend had begun.

Hughes, who has died aged 83, was the son of a Welsh Presbyterian minister. He attended Liverpool and Llandudno Grammar Schools, and in 1933 qualified from Liverpool University where he was awarded a gold medal in surgery. In that city he rapidly became a house surgeon, and then surgical tutor and registrar: the world was at his feet. But he embarked on a life of austerity and commitment in India.

the wounded from the Japanese onslaught on the Burma Road at the Diampur Refugee Camp, and took complete control of medical care for the poor. Hughes treated missionaries too — 69 in one year. Hughes conducted sociological surveys of the Bhoi people's villages that persuaded Delhi's politicians to implement a malaria eradication scheme. He also established a travelling dispensary service in the market towns, which developed into a network of rural health centres.

GROLNICK was born in New York and studied philosophy at Tufts University. He learned accordion and then piano as a child, and shortly after graduation joined the fusion band Dreams in 1971, with Mike and Randy Brecker. During the 1970s, orthodox jazz had gone to ground and the only version of the music widely acceptable to the rock industry was one that sounded like a mix of rock and soul with loud sax solos. But Dreams came to be regarded later as a pioneering ensemble of the genre, more melodically and harmonically original, far less restrictive of the soloists' freedom.

So was Steps Ahead, the group that Grolnick joined in 1979 with vibraphonist Mike Mainieri and Mike Brecker on saxophones, and which became one of the most commercially successful of all fusion groups. The band shrewdly balanced materials drawn from the jazz mainstream with those from soul and pop, but by 1983 the policy was shifting away from bebop, improvising

Face to Faith

A welcome kind of crisis

ALMOST five years ago I entered a religious order, joining the ranks of what has always been a small minority. Two weeks ago I left. The numbers of my generation who leave far outweigh the numbers who stay. There is a crisis in religious vocations in the West in the Catholic Church.

whatever vocation I may have had. It reverts to a view of vocation which puts religion on a pedestal, undervaluing lay ministry and the commitment of lay teachers and nurses in institutions once run by Orders, in Church adult education, and in Justice and Peace.

around their work. Since Vatican II these orders have been returning to their original vision. This was not a vision of the religious life as one set apart from daily life, wearing habits and observing the formal prayers of the Church — the usual stereotype of a nun. I was drawn to being a nun by a theology of radical Christian community, living the Gospel by involvement in what the 17th century founders of my Order called "works of justice."

tals, in youth retreat work with young offenders in London's East End, and finally as parliamentary officer for Church Action on Poverty. I felt increasingly cushioned by my Order from the risks of life. For me, this security made discovery of God in the realities of life impossible.

part of this new development, there are expanding possibilities for lay ministry and traditional concepts of sex separation are being set aside. The decline in vocations to established Orders may be part of the change. As may also be the expanding possibilities for lay ministry, and new forms of Christian community which

are often ecumenical and mixed gender. A glance at history shows that far from being the static force some would like to portray, the Church is an evolving institution. Religious life illustrates this change. Hermits in the desert rejecting the corruptions of urban Rome gave way to Benedictine communities.

Dominican and Franciscan mendicants reacted against the proprietary security of the Benedictines. The Jesuits reacted to the Reformation, and the age of exploration by developing education. I believe that the Church is at a turning point. In a Church working more ecumenically, taking lay ministry more seri-

only and seeking to tackle matters of faith, justice and spirituality in a society not attuned to sacramental theology, the decline in religious vocations is not a sign of the Church's decline. Rather it allows for evolution of new forms of Christian commitment and ministry. That is a sign of life not death.

Catherine Shelley

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU



Grolnick... the kind of bandleader for whom musicians would clear their diaries

Don Grolnick

Great jazz with long intervals

DON GROLNICK, who has died aged 68, was an American composer-pianist, and a square, jowly individual who looked like a 1950s TV comedian. When his band toured Britain last year it wasn't easy for commentators to dig up material to welcome him with, although everyone knew that a cheer was appropriate. He was an inventive writer of jazz themes that sounded enough like film noir soundtracks to pad stealthily around your head long after they were first heard, and a Theonious Monk-ish pianist of immense eloquence. He was also bringing a superstar orchestra including the Brecker Brothers, two of contemporary music's biggest names.

techniques toward electronic textural effects. Grolnick disliked it and quit, amicably. Perhaps the most significant fan in Grolnick's life was the ethereal arranging genius Gil Evans, who regularly attended his performances. Grolnick was fascinated by Evans' light touch with bands of unruly improvisers, and though he used more prescriptive methods than Evans, some of the older man's capacity for ambiguous effects, suggestive of the blues but rarely explicitly, rubbed Grolnick. Grolnick cut his first album as a leader in 1986 (Hearts and Numbers), but it was Weaver of Dreams three years later that confirmed his talents for a wider audience, as did Nighttown (1992) — recalling that sound of Miles Davis's famous mid-1950s band, but also the work of Mingus and Carla Bley and even the fastidious sound of the late pianist Bill Evans. The disc featured Heart of Darkness, one of Grolnick's most memorable compositions, full of busy, muttering horn conversations and abruptly concentrated lines, as if the melodies had unexpectedly struck a wall.

Grolnick ended his studio associations toward the end of his life, and probably regretted all the years he hadn't spent making the music that was closest to him. Had he lived, he would undoubtedly have continued to sustain a bridge between contemporary jazz evolution and the roots of the music he understood so intuitively. But the life he gave of Don Grolnick's jazz world shines brightly in late 20th century music and will shine on in the 21st.

John Fordman
Donald Grolnick, jazz musician, born September 23, 1927; died June 19, 1996

Death Notices

IRVING, Mrs. Hilda Berman died peacefully of Valby Manor on Monday 17th June 1996, having been in the last stages of frailty. She was the wife of the late Mr. J. Berman. She was born in London and was educated at St. Mary's, Hammersmith. She was a member of the Church of England and was a devoted mother and wife. She is survived by her daughter, Mrs. M. Berman, and her son, Mr. J. Berman. She was cremated at Golders Green Crematorium on Tuesday 19th June 1996. Flowers by arrangement only. The funeral will take place on Wednesday 20th June 1996 at 11.30 am. The funeral will be held at the Golders Green Crematorium. The family will receive friends at home from 10.30 am to 11.30 am on Wednesday 20th June 1996. The family can be contacted on 0181 422 2222.

WALLBANK, Ellen Emily, nee Phoenix, nee Gifford, born 18th June 1908 aged 88 years. Widow of Alfred Leonard, a much loved mother of Ronald and the late Angela. Loved and grandmothers of the late Angela. Survived in W.R.N.S. in 1918-19. Funeral service on Friday June 22, 1996 at 11.30 am at St. Peter's Church, 171a, Victoria Park, Gt. Le. Tel. 0121 427 2222. W.R.N.S. 2025 2026 announcement telephone 0171 713 2627. Fax 0171 713 4729

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MoneyGuardian

Splitting a pension on divorce is about to become a reality in a move that helps redress injustice for women

Crossing the great divide becomes possible at last

THE agony of uncertainty over pension arrangements for divorcing couples will end early next week when the Government announces that courts can share retirement nest-eggs between couples who divorce after July 1.

In a written answer to the House of Commons, the Lord Chancellor will confirm that pensions will be divided between couples who issue divorce papers after July 1 — although the first payments cannot begin until next April.

But this will not mean the clean-break pensions-splitting advocated by Labour in its amendment to this week's Family Law Bill. The Lord Chancellor, rather, will enact existing provisions in the Pensions Act which allow spouses a share in their former partner's pension through deferred maintenance.

This allows pension schemes to earmark a slice of money, which will then be paid to a wife when a husband retires — or vice versa — with the disadvantage that the pension dies with the scheme member. Furthermore, as with any maintenance order, these arrangements can be halted when a wife remarries. In other words, a deserted wife or husband who finds a new partner will forfeit his or her pension share through a marriage.

Regulations which are still not ready for publication will also permit variation orders, which will allow pension scheme members to return to the courts to alter any earlier order. This might happen when their circumstances change — perhaps because a second marriage brings new and different financial responsibilities which did not exist at the time of the divorce. But those who believe

Position now	Husband £	Wife £	Total £
Pension rights (per year)	31,900	4,300	—
Cash equivalent of current pension rights (ie transfer value if they want to leave the scheme and set up alternative pension arrangements)	31,000	7,000	38,000
If pension splitting becomes law			
Pension entitlement under 50/50 split (per year)	18,300	10,600	—
Cash equivalent transfer value under 50/50 split	19,000	19,000	38,000

The figures are based on the husband retiring at 65 and the wife at 60.

they are entitled to half their spouse's pension on divorce, which they can then invest independently on their own behalf, may have to keep their marriages going a while yet before being guaranteed a huge slice of cash.

A 35-year-old wife with an annual pension in her own right of £4,300 — worth £7,000 as a cash lump sum — will see her annual pension rise to £10,600, and her cash sum to £19,000 once full splitting is allowed. Her husband, on the other hand, will see his annual £31,900 pension — worth £31,000 as a lump sum — fall to £18,300 annually (£19,000 as a lump sum) once he is forced to give half to his wife.

THE Government had already agreed to a green paper on pension-splitting, which will now be brought forward to July, following the Labour amendment. But with a white paper not likely until spring of next year, regulations would not follow until 1998 at the earliest. With an election in the way, it is possible that the timetable could slip even further.

But for many women in the throes of divorce it is all too



Fair share... Joyce Hayward must rely on a husband's kindness PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SNOWDON

late, Joyce Hayward, of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, knew she was lucky when divorce proceedings began and her husband promised to make her a beneficiary of his occupational pension. Then he changed his mind.

The couple had been married for 28 years when they separated in 1993. While her husband has a final salary occupational pension, Mrs Hayward gave up her job in 1975 to look after their children and has no pension.

Divorce proceedings were begun in November 1993 and the decree nisi granted in May 1994. She said: "I had always hoped that the legislation would be retrospective. Now all I can hope is that my husband is kind enough to change his mind back again."

In a separate development, the Inland Revenue has given its approval for occupational pension schemes to pay pensions to unmarried couples, including gay couples, in the same way they do married spouses. So unmarried partners should now qualify for widows' and widowers' benefits, which normally end with the death of a single person.

Taxman fails to bridge equality gap in marriage

MARRIED women are still not equal to their male counterparts in the eyes of the Inland Revenue, despite having been taxed independently for six years. And many wives are still forced to accept lower tax allowances than their husbands.

The inequalities stem from the married couple's allowance (MCA), which is currently set at £1,790. It was introduced in 1990 to ensure that the tax reliefs enjoyed by married couples would not decline with the introduction of independent taxation.

On the assumption that the husband is more commonly the breadwinner, the MCA is initially given to him, with two separate provisions for the allowance to be passed to his wife.

The first provision, introduced in 1990, says that where a husband's income is so low that he cannot use part or all of the MCA he may elect to transfer any unused allowance to his wife, using Revenue form 575. So if the wife is the breadwinner, and the husband has little or no income, the full relief can go to her.

This rule was widely attacked as discriminatory, since it denied the MCA to most married women and, even where a transfer could be made, it was dependent upon a choice by the husband.

In response to such protests, an additional option was introduced in 1993 allowing a married woman to claim half of the MCA — £895 — as of right. Furthermore, the couple can jointly elect for the full MCA to go to the wife, not the husband, using form 18 in either case.

While this meant a vast improvement, it has a number of flaws. In the first place, relatively few people are sufficiently well-informed to make decisions for tax purposes. In the absence of any choice, the full MCA still goes to the husband.

And even where a married woman does understand the system and tries to claim her half-share, she will find the law riddled with anomalies. For example, it is a prerequisite that the husband must first claim

the allowance as a whole, which is usually done on a tax return form. If he fails to make such a claim, through negligence or spite, the wife is not legally entitled to claim anything. And some Inspectors of Taxes do stick to the letter of the law.

A second anomaly affects older taxpayers. Subject to certain income limits, if either spouse is over 65 the MCA increases to £3,115 (with a further rise to £3,155 at 75). But an older wife cannot share in the age-related MCA figure. She is restricted to claiming half the standard £1,790 allowance. So she may "enjoy" just £895 in comparison to her husband's £2,220.

It is this latter point that has disadvantaged Guardian reader Renata Harvey. "As a married woman who has worked and paid income tax without interruption until retirement, I find it insulting and galling," she said. "Shall we have to wait until we have a female Chancellor of the Exchequer before women receive equal treatment in tax matters?"

IN FACT, the anomaly may well be resolved in a rather different way — by the abolition of the MCA altogether. This was widely predicted in 1994 when the Chancellor reduced the rate at which MCA is given to 20 per cent in 1994/95, and 15 per cent from 1995/96.

This means that anyone claiming part or all of the MCA now saves tax equal to just 15 per cent of the allowance claimed, in contrast to the previous situation, where by tax was saved at the taxpayer's marginal rate which, for most people, is the basic rate (currently 24 per cent). It was fully expected that the rate of relief would continue to fall by 5 per cent each year until the MCA withered away completely, but the rot stopped at 15 per cent, since no Chancellor wants to be seen to be cutting tax allowances in the run-up to an election. So we are left with this half-baked MCA, at least until next April.

David Brodie is director of TaxAct, a charity which provides free tax advice to individuals who cannot afford professional fees. Telephone 0171-624-3768 between 9-11am weekdays.

Complaints pile up as the cuts begin to hurt

JILL Papworth

SEX equality issues have led to a growing number of complaints to the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service following big cuts in women's pensions.

One complainant, Jane West, was a member of a scheme whose normal retirement age was 60 for women and 65 for men. But following a European Court ruling retirement ages were changed to 65 for all employees.

Those aged 55 or over at the time of the change could take a pension at 60 without discount. Mrs West was 51, and concerned this meant that she would get a substantially reduced pension if she retired at 60.

Trustees confirmed to Opas, which offers help and a concil-

iation service to people with pension problems, that the pension payable at 60 would be discounted for the whole of her service — not just benefits accrued from the date of the equalising of pension ages.

When Opas suggested that such a reduction could constitute a breach of trust, the trustees said they were simply implementing changes ordered by the employer, who had told them that if they did not do so the scheme would probably be closed.

But following the Opas intervention they agreed to review the position, finally deciding that if Ms West retired at 60 only part of her services accrued since the date of the change would be subject to actuarial discount.

The failure of company pension schemes to communicate properly with employees is at the heart of many other pen-

sion rows and leads many people to make the wrong decisions about retirement, according to Opas, whose president Brian MacMahon believes that as people make important and irrevocable lifestyle and financial decisions based on information from their trustees, it is vital that "communication should be accurate, timely, clear and easy to understand". Opas reports that many of the complaints it deals with are either directly or indirectly the result of "inadequate, baffling or even non-existent communication between trustees and

administrators and their members".

In one typical case a man requested figures for the payment of an early retirement pension at age 60, 18 months before his 60th birthday. Six months after receiving the figures a letter arrived from the trustees which was meant to inform him that the earlier quotation was incorrect. But it was written in such technical language that he completely missed the point and made important financial arrangements, including buying a house, based on the original figures. When he retired he was shocked to discover that the pension and

tax-free cash sum were much lower than he had originally been advised.

The scheme eventually accepted that its letter had been "incomprehensible to the layman" and agreed to restore the man's benefits to those originally quoted following intervention by Opas.

Another serious cause of problems arises where trustees, or employers acting as trustees of small schemes, fail to act in the members' best interests.

One man retired and was told that his annual pension provided by the insurer of his employer's insured money purchase scheme would be £5,783.

As he knew that his scheme's insurer was providing some of the worst annuity rates then available he asked instead for an "open market option", allowing the annuity

Firms' failure to communicate with employees leads to many wrong decisions

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Investigator quit in disgust

COPPER CRISIS/Team from SFO is set to visit Japan in pursuit of British connection — three years after regulatory review began

Paul Murphy
Owen Bowcott
and Patrick Donovan

THE sole investigator assigned to carry out the Securities and Futures Authority's inquiry into allegations of irregular trading in the copper markets handed in his resignation in disgust at the inactivity of his superiors over suspect dealing involving Sumitomo trader Yasuo Hamanaka.

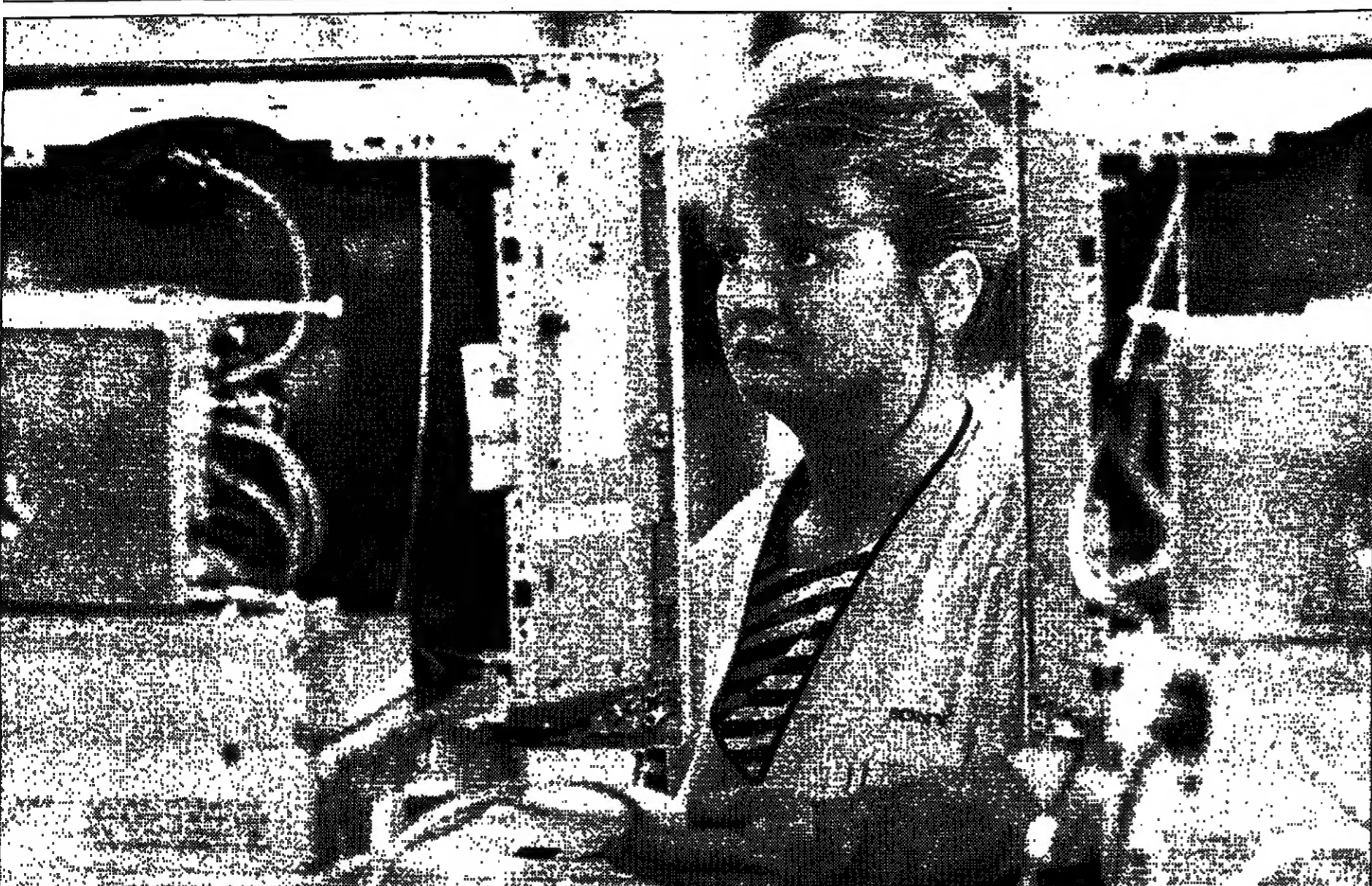
Daniel Simon left the agency in the spring of 1995 after spending a year investigating trades between Mr Hamanaka, the trader who was recently sacked after the discovery of massive losses. Sumitomo last week announced the discovery of frauds totalling more than \$2.5 billion involving Mr Hamanaka.

is expected to fly out to Japan on Monday to liaise with its Tokyo counterparts. A close associate of the former investigator told the Guardian: "He [Mr Simon] had always spoken of taking an extended sabbatical and he had inherited some money around that time, but the prime reason for his departure and the timing was that he was sick to the back teeth that information he was uncovering was not being acted upon."

London Metal Exchange and the procedures for sharing information between the SFA and the market. A formal eight-week investigation was begun by the SFA in October 1994. Mr Simon's report in December unearthed concerns about Mr Hamanaka's involvement in a large deal, code-named "Red", involving more than one million tonnes of copper which passed through Winchester Commodities, the British metals brokerage run by Charles "Copperfingers" Vincent and Ashley Levitt. Mr Simon questioned Mr Hamanaka's reasons for doing the deal and whether he had the necessary authority. While Winchester was cleared of any irregularities, the inquiry served to

raise further concerns about Mr Hamanaka's huge speculative dealings in the market. Mr Simon recommended a further, broader investigation, which was begun early last year. He started carrying out the inquiries, but left while the inquiry was still in progress. He is understood to have become disillusioned because he did not feel his requests for extra assistance were being acted upon.

Mr Simon is understood to have told a friend at the time: "This needs a fully motivated investigation, which we haven't been carrying out. It needs a wholehearted investigation." While the subsequent investigation looked at Mr Hamanaka's dealing, it was also extended to examine the business carried out between British firms and Codelco, the Chilean state copper agency which a year earlier had discovered that its chief copper trader, Juan Davila, had run up losses of more than \$200 million.



Welsh pool... Inspectors on the production line (pictured) at Sony's Fencosed and Bridgend plants, which produce television and video monitors, are so impressed with local suppliers that the Japanese group last night presented several of them with awards and said they set a world standard for "just in time" production techniques

OFT challenges airline alliance

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

THE first threat to British Airways' alliance with American Airlines came yesterday when the Office of Fair Trading announced that it is to investigate the link. The OFT said the deal constituted a merger under the terms of the 1973 Fair Trading Act. Many experts had felt there was no scope for an investigation because the alliance does not involve any exchange of assets or equity.

Monday the "open skies" talks necessary for the approval of the alliance. John Bridgeman, director-general of the OFT, will prepare a report over the next month for Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, who will then decide whether to refer the matter to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Aviation analysts said they doubted that the MMC, which vetted BA's purchase of domestic competitor British Caledonian in 1987, would spring any surprises.

the end turned out to be very minor," said Nick Cunningham, an analyst with Barclays de Zoete Wedd. "They might have to give up some routes or hand over slots to competitors but, given the scale of the alliance, those are going to be relatively small issues." Matthew O'Keefe, an analyst with UBS, said he expected the OFT to refer the alliance to the commission because of political concerns. "In a deal of this size, I would have thought not to refer it would have been politically unpalatable," he said.

rivals on the North Atlantic routes. Richard Branson, Virgin's chairman, has told the Government that the alliance's dominant position would be against the best interests of consumers. Virgin welcomed the OFT's statement, saying that it expected nothing less than a full and thorough investigation. It said that the MMC often had to investigate mergers which gave companies more than 25 per cent of market share. The BA-American alliance would give the companies a 60-70 per cent share of the US-UK market, and as much as 90 per cent on some other international routes.

BA said it was happy for the alliance to be investigated and it would co-operate with the OFT. "The important issue is whether the alliance is anti-competitive. It is not. It is very much in the consumer's interest," a spokesman said. BA said that other alliances, notably the one between Lufthansa and United Airlines, had been approved by the authorities. BA and its American partner have already set up policy groups at director level to discuss closer arrangements on code sharing, marketing and computer use. Even if the link is approved, the process is expected to take about a year.

SBC Warburg bids £532m to control French investment firm

Mark Milner
European Business Editor

SBC Warburg, the merchant bank, yesterday launched an audacious £532 million bid for a controlling stake in investment company, Cied Investissements de Paris, owned by France's biggest bank. The time-bomb attached to the offer — Banque Nationale de Paris has been given until lunchtime on Monday to accept the offer for its 83.9 per cent holding — is designed to flush a higher offer, bid from BNP for SBC Warburg's 3 per cent stake.

Dockers blamed for end of Liverpool container service

1,000 redundancies feared in labour dispute, MARTYN HALSALL reports

THE Port of Liverpool was in crisis last night after the departure of its flag-ship container service as a result of a lingering labour dispute. The news triggered fears of sweeping financial losses and hundreds of redundancies. Up to 1,000 jobs could go on Merseyside following the closure of Atlantic Container Line (ACL), said Bernard Cliff, port operations director of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company.

329 workers it sacked last September for refusing to cross another company's picket line. The sacked dockers unanimously rejected the package, which offered payments of up to £25,000 and the reinstatement of 100 of the men, at a mass meeting a fortnight ago. The escalating dispute was blamed for slicing \$4 million off the MDHC's £31.7 million pre-tax profits in 1995. Yesterday the dock company's share price fell by 26p to 379p, after initially losing 10 per cent of its value.

"ACL's decision is the consequence of threats of action against their ships by the Longshoremen's Association in America, prompted by demands of support from the former Liverpool dockers." The company made it clear from the outset that the £3 million package could only be afforded if established revenue was maintained. While a serious blow to the Royal Container Terminal, the loss of ACL is not critical to the port or to the Mersey docks.

ILO condemns anti-union firm

Seamus Milne

A CANADIAN-owned steel mill in Kent, Co-Steel Sheerness, was condemned yesterday for union-busting by the International Labour Organisation, which called on the British government to start an inquiry into the company. The ILO, the United Nations body responsible for employment affairs, said that the Government should investigate the "anti-trade union practices" at the plant and give British unions legal protection from employer interference.

for what Mr Billot calls "total team culture". Some employees say that they have been required to work more than 70 hours a week without overtime pay — now that they are all salaried and supposed to "behave like managers" — and that there have been sackings of "dissatisfied" employees. Keith Brookman, general secretary of the ILO, said: "If the management had any respect for its workers it would now take on board the ILO's comments and allow its employees proper recognition and representation rights."

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Finland 7.07	Israel 6.03	Saudi Arabia 5.73	USA 1.5025

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Saturday Notebook

Opening the skies to competition



Alex Brummer

THE proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines, the two dominant carriers on the North Atlantic route, is becoming one of the most scrutinised deals ever forged. Although the two carriers have eschewed the equity route (BA shareholders had enough of that with US Air) it seems that the Office of Fair Trading considers it a merger in all but name.

Now that the UK authorities have decided they have some jurisdiction over the deal, it will be examined by at least three official bodies, including the European Commission and the US Justice Department. Moreover, it is hard to believe with a transaction this size that it will not be looked at, too, by the US Department of Transportation and the highly activist aviation committees on Capitol Hill.

At the very least, one supposes, BA may be forced to divest itself of USAir, and both airlines may be required to give up some gates/slots to competitors, like TWA, seeking to break back into the international market place. Whatever the commercial consequences for BA and American — and the stock market plainly believes in the deal — the series of anti-trust inquiries on both sides of the Atlantic could prove highly illuminating.

At a time when there has been increasing globalisation of manufacturing and financial services, and when trade is being liberalised through the World Trade Organisation, the airline industry is a notable exception. Deregulation in Europe is still in its infancy, as comparison with fares in the US demonstrates. Travel across the Atlantic, and for that matter the Pacific, is still largely regulated through bilateral deals.

Names game

FEW will miss the irony of Lloyd's of London choosing the day of a postal strike to write to 34,000 Names with details of the revised offer which is expected to

rescue the insurance market from extinction. First reaction from the action groups, which have been conducting their guerrilla campaign through the courts, suggests that the \$2 billion offer will be enough to buy off the majority of the disgruntled Names and put the market back on a sounder footing.

Certainly, chairman David Rowland feels confident enough to talk tough — threatening those US Names who are challenging Lloyd's ethics, and other dissenters in the UK, to go ahead irrespective of their objections. Clearly, Mr Rowland needs to draw the line somewhere if the market is to put scandal and \$2 billion worth of accumulated losses behind it.

Lyons terms

LORENCE may be regarded as the big summit domestically. On the global calendar, however, it is just the warm-up for next week's G7 heads-of-government gathering in Lyons. Remarkably, with the assistance of some clever political manoeuvring from the World Bank, President Chirac has managed to promote debt relief for some of the globe's poorest countries to the top of the Lyons agenda.

Admittedly, the French hosts are susceptible to this kind of issue: the Franco-phone legacy in Africa makes it particularly attractive. It also gives France the chance to lay claim to a piece of financial history. The idea is that the debt reduction scheme, which on the best assumptions would cost \$5.5 billion, be known as the Lyons terms.

Under the scheme, the bilateral and commercial debt of the poorest qualifying nations could be reduced by up to 90 per cent. This is a significant advance on the Naples terms which cover just bilateral debt and extend to 67 per cent. The main doubt on the eve of the summit relates to the IMF's contribution, although some arrangements also need to be made for the African Development Bank.

Under the scheme, the IMF would be required to put up \$500 million, although the figure could rise to \$800 million should export assumptions prove worse than anticipated. The IMF has sought to enlarge its share of the fund in its plans to reduce its own credits for poor countries known as the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF).

Kvaerner arm may be sued in spying row

Chris Barrie
Business Correspondent

A BITTER wrangle between two engineering companies over industrial espionage intensified yesterday when Austrian firm VAI said it would sue Britain's Davy International for alleging that it had stolen confidential documents detailing bids for lucrative contracts.

VAI (Voest-Alpine Industrieanlagenbau) angrily rejected accusations made by Davy and its parent, the Norwegian group Kvaerner, that VAI's chief executive and financial officers were implicated in industrial espionage which had caused Davy to lose a \$90 million contract in Saudi Arabia. Kvaerner has alleged that documents were passed to VAI by a former employee, Roy Tazzyman, who left Davy to work for VAI's British subsidiary. The allegations were made after Kvaerner employees, armed with court papers, raided VAI's UK offices and removed a large quantity of documents.

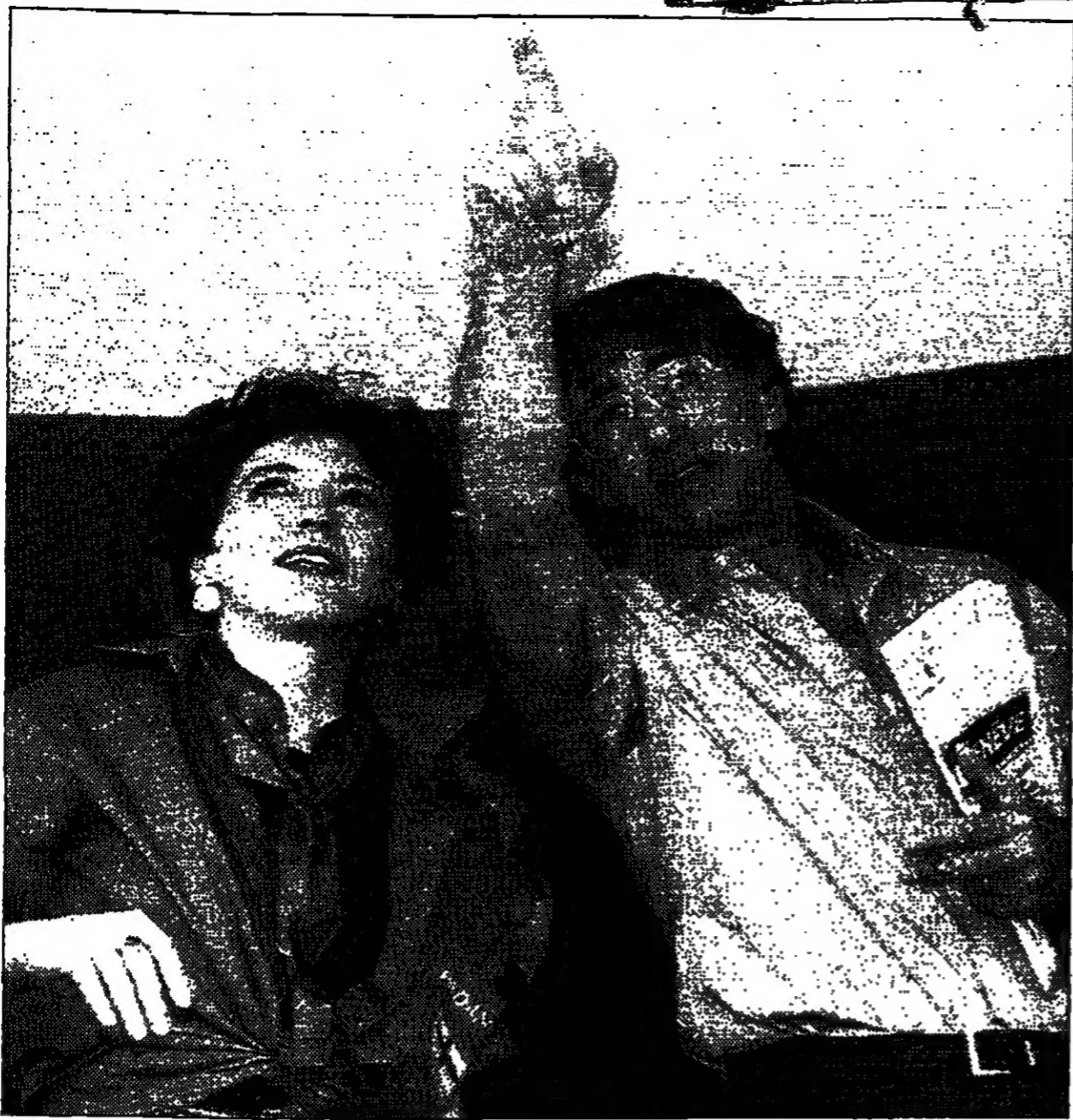
Southern Water bows to power of the Scots

VICTORY for Scottish Power in its £1.7 billion battle for Southern Water looked certain last night, after the Worthing-based company advised shareholders to accept an improved offer.

After meeting Scottish Power directors, the Southern Water board issued a statement, via bankers N M Rothschild, that it had received assurances that the power firm expects no compulsory redundancies as a result of the takeover. Scottish Power's offer of 1,050p a share sent rival bidder Southern Electric into retreat earlier this week, and the South Coast power firm on Thursday announced that it would allow its £1.6 billion bid to lapse. Southern Water had previously recommended acceptance of Southern Electric's offer, but now says that the Scottish Power bid represents a 64p premium on it. Scottish Power's formal offer document and the letter of recommendation from Southern Water chairman William Courtney will be sent to shareholders next week.

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From his Milan power base, Umberto Bossi tells MARK MILNER and JOHN GLOVER why he wants to free wealthy 'Padania' from the millstone of the rest of Italy



Divide and rule... Northern League leader, Umberto Bossi, with ex-Chamber of Deputies president, Irene Fivetti, at rally in northern Italy. PHOTOGRAPH: LUCA BRUNO

Two currencies. Too far?

A CENTURY and a half ago, the Habsburg chancellor, Prince Metetrnich, described Italy as a "geographical expression". Umberto Bossi would like it to be that way again. Mr Bossi is an unlikely heir to Metetrnich's system. The head of the Northern League — the sometime federalist, and now secessionist, movement based in the heart of Italy's industrial (and rich) North — is a neat, almost dapper, figure. Only the bored-looking, but body-armoured, carabinieri outside the block that houses the league's headquarters, and the red and white flag inside his office, suggest Mr Bossi is one of Italy's most controversial modern politicians. Quietly spoken and apparently at ease, Mr Bossi shows little sign of the passion which has carried him from regional obscurity to national prominence. Only the vehemence with which he doodles. If that is the right description of so forceful an activity, belies his relaxed manner. Mr Bossi's easy delivery, however, does little to disguise the sharpness, some would say harshness, of his approach to arguments about whether or not Italy should stay together. He talks freely, for example, of the south's use of "colonial" techniques to maintain control of the north — through appointments to the police, judiciary and educational system.

Take him at face value, and Mr Bossi harbours no doubts, certainly not on economic grounds, that northern Italy should split from the poorer half — with a dividing line drawn north of Rome. "There used to be dual economies. The globalisation of markets has broken this equilibrium for ever. Now, there are two economic systems which are completely different in terms of competitiveness." Southern Italy, he says, would be 200th in terms of global competitiveness. Padania, as he calls the northern bloc, would be seventh. "The south weighs heavily on the Padanian productive system to the point where the Padanian system can only sell on the basis of devaluation of the lira." Mr Bossi's arguments have the simplicity, critics would say simplistic, approach that

message which plays well enough in the north, especially among the region's myriad small businesses, to allow Mr Bossi to defy the doomseers who, at various points over the last decade, have predicted his political demise. Like all good populists, Mr Bossi reckons that events are favouring him. The decisive phase has begun. European monetary union will force Italy to confront its economic dichotomy. "If Italy joins a single currency or a new European monetary system, it will be impossible to maintain the weight of the state which is so expensive. Therefore we will be forced to slough off the state." But if Italy stays out of the single currency then he reckons trade barriers will return along with "the closed market".

The solution, says Mr Bossi, is two separate countries and two separate currencies. Perhaps, oddly, he paints a rosier future for the south under such a system. With its own currency, he claims, it would be able to sell itself, using low labour costs to attract investment. With more than a touch of hyperbole, he argues that the south could become "the Taiwan of the Mediterranean". The outlook for the north would be more difficult. The burden of debt it would inherit from the Italian state would hold back investment for years to come. Nonetheless, Mr Bossi reckons: "Padania may lack somewhat in technology but it is an effective, working economy." Nor does he believe that Padania would become a minnow within the European Union, with a resultant dimi-

The Northern League has set up a "shadow" administration, though that is a term Mr Bossi is said to dislike. It is about to issue its first official gazette of the "government" of Padania. Mr Bossi presents this as part of a "Gandhi-type" process of non-violent change. By demonstrating support on the ground, he argues that the league will be able to exert sufficient pressure on the government in Rome to grant a referendum on secession. He can even quote the appropriate article of the United Nations charter on the right to self-determination. The reality looks less straight forward. Mr Bossi claims that there is no alternative to secession. "Federalism won't work", he says, because a federal republic would not reduce the transfers to the south. But his move to backing outright secession may, in part at least, have been forced on him by others taking some of the ideological ground that was originally occupied by the Northern League. It could be a move too far. Though Mr Bossi does not accept such a view, the League's share of the vote in recent local elections was down on its performance in the national elections. As one Italian commentator noted, wryly, recently. A statue should be put up in Mr Bossi's honour — in acknowledgement of his work in reminding Italians of their Italian identity.

'If Italy joins a single currency or a new European monetary system, it will be impossible to maintain the weight of the state which is so expensive. We will be forced to slough off the state'

any populist politician needs. Rome, he says, has diverted the wealth generated by the north to support the welfare system in the south, instead of investing in the infrastructure which would help the north, especially the industrial power houses of Lombardy and Veneto, to generate yet more wealth. Whatever the truth, it is a

The two Italian economies "are like two drowning people tied together. If they stay together, they go down together." Might not the new centre-left government in Rome, with its determination to cut government deficits, at least ease the problem? Mr Bossi shakes his head slowly. "No way," he says.

nation of influence. "There are 32 million people in Padania. It would be a big state." He rejects any suggestion that a divided Italy might encourage similar divisions elsewhere within the European Union. Nowhere in the union are the fault lines as defined as in Italy, he says. Mr Bossi is not just all talk.

Channel 1: 'Bad' guy could win pay-TV shoot-out German TV battle reaches high noon

Fredrick Staudemann in Berlin
LIKE all good TV dramas, the battle between two of Europe's most powerful media groups over the future of Germany's commercial television market is seen as a fight between "good" guy and "bad" guy, in this case between Bertelsmann and the Munich-based KirchGroup. At first glance, such typecasting is easy to understand. Bertelsmann and Kirch represent two distinct styles of business in Germany. Bertelsmann is a one-time publisher of hymn books which has become the world's third largest media company, with interests from highbrow book publishing and glossy magazines to pop music and television networks. Within Germany it has near-institutional status and ranks alongside Deutsche Bank and Daimler-Benz as a pillar of post-war prosperity. The company is a prime example of the German consensus system. Through the Bertelsmann Foundation, which now owns most of the company's equity, it is a prominent supporter of good causes. The privately owned KirchGroup is, by contrast, something of a wild card. The biggest programme distributor in

Europe, Kirch is noted for its taste for secrecy, as when it surreptitiously built up a substantial shareholding in Springer newspapers. The conservative views of its owner and founder, Leo Kirch and his close friendship with people such as Chancellor Helmut Kohl have also prompted fears that he is an audience grabber. As the two groups fight it out over the emerging market of pay-TV, which both believe will be spectacularly lucrative, their differing public images have played an increasingly important role. Kirch is depicted as the villain of the piece, out to control German viewers' every watching minute. Bertelsmann, meanwhile, has been playing the avuncular role of a company committed to quality and pluralism. It has built a consensus with broadcasters to establish a uniform standard for the decoder boxes needed to decipher digitally transmitted television signals. It has also forged grand alliances with other key players in European television, such as Canal Plus of France and BSkyB. But appearances can be deceptive. Kirch may indeed be a secret admirer of good causes. The private KirchGroup is no midgard, and it has consistently used its considerable financial muscle to ar-

range events to its own liking. Bertelsmann's treatment of CLT, the Luxembourg-based broadcaster, was overbearing. CLT, criticised for providing the know-how behind the success of RTL, the German commercial network it co-owns with Bertelsmann, was enthusiastic to link up with BSkyB but was brushed aside. Instead, Bertelsmann offered a merger between CLT and the German company's TV subsidiary, Ufa. This is typical of Bertelsmann's way of doing business, often more cheque book power than innate prowess. But Bertelsmann appears to be faltering. The pay-TV alliance has all but collapsed, as BSkyB recently pulled out complaining about the German company's arrogant and slow approach. Furthermore, while Bertelsmann has been developing grand strategies, Kirch has concentrated on the matter at hand. Next month sees the launch of his pay-TV network, DF1, which will use its own decoding system. As the history of satellite broadcasting in Britain shows, the company that gets to the market first has often won half the battle, whatever the relative merits of its programming or its technology. If that scenario is played in Germany, it appears that the "bad guy" will have won.

Channel 2: Hoping the controversy will float away Mediaset on last lap as Berlusconi cleans up act

John Glover in Milan
ONE of Italy's largest and most controversial flotations entered the final straight this week. Mediaset, the TV and advertising subsidiary of former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi's Fininvest group and the heart of his business empire, is to be listed in July, raising up to 1.8 trillion lire (€780 million). Until the last moment it was uncertain whether bourse watchdog Consob would approve the prospectus, not least because Milan magistrates have been investigating Fininvest and Berlusconi for the past two years. But a huge press and TV advertising campaign is under way to convince investors of Mediaset's virtues. It has promised to pay out 40 per cent of profits as dividends and shareholders who

can put 3 per cent of the shares together will be able to elect a representative to the board. Selling Mediaset is also very political and Mr Berlusconi, as a politician, has to distance himself from his business interests. The prospectus is also frank about the difficulties. Mediaset acknowledges some senior staff face accusations, from illegal financing of the political parties to bribing tax inspectors. They have promised to resign if convicted. The company itself has problems. Last year, it posted profits of 454 billion lire thanks to tax breaks of 325 billion lire in 1995 offered by the Berlusconi government, but not likely to be repeated by the present centre-left administration. Then there is the TV advertising market, the third-largest in Europe. Mediaset, through Publitalia '80, its ad-

vertising broker, dominates TV advertising in Italy with a share of just over 80 per cent but the market is saturated. At the same time, the audience Mediaset's channels command has fallen slightly over the past two years, from 44.7 per cent in 1993 to 42.8 per cent in 1995, mainly due to aggressive advertising by broadcaster RTL. But the money Mediaset will pocket from the sale will practically wipe out its debts and it has ambitious plans in the promising telecoms field, having recently struck a deal with BT's Italian operation, Alcatel. They hope to win the licence to build Italy's third mobile phone network, which analysts say will eventually be a money-spinner. There is little doubt that the placing will be a stunning success but whether this will convince his political enemies that Berlusconi has really ended his conflict of interests is another matter.

Auf Wiedersehen to the post-war renaissance

David Gow
THE German social market economy, engine of the country's post-war renaissance, may have run out of steam well before the fall of the Wall, but the political battle to preserve its soul is only now getting under way. There have been two defining moments in this debate this week. Last Saturday, 300,000 Germans descended upon Bonn to stage the federal republic's biggest post-war demonstration against the Kohl government's plans to axe DM70 billion (€20 billion) of public spending. More protests are planned at plant level on Thursday when parliament debates budget plans. Sponsored (another historic first) by both trade union federations, DGB and DAG, the protest was against Bonn's plans to postpone increases in

child benefits and personal allowances, cut sick pay and raise the retirement age of women to 66. Three days later, and in an atmosphere surrounding, ironically, the presence of Tony Blair, leading proponent in the UK of a stakeholder economy 21st century, the German CBI (BDI) brushed aside the protest. At the BDI's annual conference its president, Hans-Olaf Henkel, said: "I know nobody in industry who wants to question the social market economy..." But he added: "Our social system is at work undermining the foundations of our economy," and he went on to demand even deeper cuts in spending, comprehensive tax and welfare reform, more deregulation/privatisation and greater labour flexibility, including part-time working. The Anglo-Saxon economic model.

German industry wholeheartedly, the Bonn government half-heartedly (since it will ultimately make concessions on its budget plans) and even German workers surreptitiously (since many are quietly tearing up long-standing bargaining arrangements) are signalling a cultural shift towards the latter model. The alternative, they sense, would be a further decline in competitiveness, greater loss of markets, higher unemployment, stiffer taxation. Their dilemma is heightened by the prevailing economic conditions of low to nil growth (at best 0.75 per cent this year), record levels of joblessness (10 per cent), continuing deflation at low levels of price-rises (1.4 per cent) to aim for the budget deficit criterion of 3 per cent for European currency union; and lack of consumer confidence. It will be a long and troubled march.

Musicians make VAT a cultural issue

Protest swells over discrimination against recorded music, reports ALEX DUVAL SMITH from Bourges

MUSICIANS from Sting to Yehudi Menuhin are backing a campaign by French culture minister Philippe Douste-Blazy to reduce VAT on recorded music across the European Union. This town in central France hosts one of Europe's biggest music festivals every spring and Mr Douste-Blazy chose a conference here on Thursday to argue that recorded music is as much of a creative work as books, which in Britain are zero-rated for VAT. "It is absurd to deny that recorded music is a cultural product. Making a record is a

work of art. Listening to one is a cultural experience. The fact that young people are particularly interested in it should make us take it even more seriously," he said. The minister's campaign is backed by Europe's €13 billion-a-year music industry but is likely to face opposition from member states, such as Britain, who believe taxation is a sovereign issue. Adrian Strain, spokesman for the Brussels office of the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, said: "We would like recorded music to be included on Annex H. This is an EU list of products and

services, already including films, circuses and books, for which individual states may apply reduced VAT rates if they wish." Mr Douste-Blazy hopes Westminster's reaction to what may be seen as EU interference with local tax policy will be challenged by the powerful British music industry lobby. Music is Britain's third largest export and the industry is worth €1.2 billion a year. Matthew Rooke of the Scottish Arts Council said: "The campaign makes perfect sense. In Britain, if you buy a recording of Cats you pay 17.5 per cent VAT. If you buy the T S Eliott book, you pay no VAT. It is just not logical." Eamon Shackleton, director of the Irish performing rights society, Imro, said links with continental culture policy had brought

only benefits — with the exception of the Eurovision Song Contest which Ireland has the costly habit of winning. He said: "After a period of isolation, the Irish government has become proactive. Our film industry is booming thanks to a scheme of tax breaks. Our recording industry, I am sure, would grow if records became cheaper because people would buy more of them." Mr Douste-Blazy, who for the day had enlisted the support of the Greek singer and European commissioner, Nana Mouskouri, also has strong support from French president Jacques Chirac, who cut VAT on records from 33 per cent to the standard 18.5 per cent in 1993. Now standing at 20.6 per cent, the VAT rate is blamed for France's lack of appetite for buying records.

Update

Assessors General, Italian insurers, has taken a 5 per cent stake in 21 Investment, the investment company controlled by the Benetton family. The insurer paid, through an increase in capital, just over 7 billion lire (€2 million) for its stake. The Seragnoli group, an industrial company based in Bologna, is set to raise its stake from 10 to 15 per cent. Friedrich Hennemann, former chairman of the stricken shipbuilder Bremer Vulkan, has been arrested after investigators seized documents and cash at his home. Bremen's public prosecutor on Thursday issued an arrest warrant against Mr Hennemann. The former chairman is suspected of attempting to conceal documents relating to the misuse of government subsidies by the company. A long-awaited reorganisation of the European Airbus consortium has been agreed in principle but its four partners, British Aerospace, Aerospatiale, Daimler Benz Aerospace and Cassa, still need to decide the details. Aerospatiale chairman Louis Gallois said this week. ABB has named Peter Janson president and chief executive officer of its US arm, ABB Inc. Mr Janson, who begins the job in September, succeeds Robert Donovan, who died in the air crash in which US Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown was also killed. European Business is edited by Mark Milner



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Finance Guardian

Marketing men call it Robin Hood country. Pit closures turned the legend on its head. Now, reports LARRY ELLIOTT, the story is of the struggle to survive in the village the locals have named...



Fastime... Ex-miner Thomas Gooch tends his allotment among the back-to-backs of Whaley Thorns. Fort Apache it's not, but to locals it is the Bronx. PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER THOMSON

THEY call it Robin Hood country, which is pushing it even by the standards of these park Britain. Robin Hood stole from the rich to give to the poor. In Whaley Thorns the legend has been turned on its head. First, they were robbed of their pits and their jobs, then their shops. After that empty homes had to be boarded up and allotment sheds began to be burgled. Now there's only hope left in the village the locals call The Bronx. And there's not a lot of that. Whaley Thorns is more than a morality tale. It's a complex story of industrial decline, broken promises, woeful neglect and the

struggle for survival. But, above all, it's a story of the courage of people determined to keep on trying. Let's start with some geography. The reality is that this is not Robin Hood country. It's the DH Lawrence country. England's greatest 20th century novelist was born and grew up in the East Midlands and once noted how the mines were "in a sense, an accident in the landscape". Little has changed in the past 86 years. The pit villages still loom up out of the cornfields, fruit-gum green in the evening sun, and nestle among drifts of hawthorn blossom. The only difference is that there are no longer any mines. "I remember when there was real wealth here," says

John Fotherby, chief executive of Bolsover district council. "There were the big old pubs with their long bars packed with miners. But the spending power has gone." Mr Fotherby has a mission to bring back prosperity to this part of North-east Derbyshire, and spends a large part of his time chiselling away for regeneration money from the myriad of sources that now finance development. The search for cash is competitive, sometimes cut-throat, and he recalls with some envy the way in which Plymouth won a bid after showing people the gleaming yachts in its marina. "Marina? Yachts? We haven't got so much as a rowing boat." Mr Fotherby has carved out a chunk of the county and called it the "diamond of opportunity". He would like to see it criss-crossed with new and improved infrastructure — an East-West road to link the area with the M1 and the A1, and restoration of a passenger rail service on a freight-only line to provide access to Worksop to the north and Nottingham to the south. No prizes for guessing the name of the railway: the Robin Hood line, naturally.

The need for new infrastructure cannot be underestimated. North-east Derbyshire seems as out of touch with the rest of the country as it would have done to the young Lawrence a century ago. Although it is within 10 miles of the M1, this corner of the Midlands feels as remote as the wildernesses of Scotland, perhaps even more remote. Britain's movers and shakers know Scotland; they go walking and hunting there. It's a sure bet that few, if any, will ever visit Whaley Thorns. This remoteness didn't matter when coal was king. Vil-

lage life centred on the pit, the houses were owned by the local magnate and the coal left by rail. The communities lived on the cusp between the country and the town. But that was the first Industrial Revolution. The second industrial revolution — of mass production — is merging into a third and, without investment, infrastructure and skills, areas like North-east Derbyshire face an uphill battle for survival. Before the year-long miners' strike, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire had 27 pits employing more than 35,000 men. Now there are five pits in Notts, none in Derbyshire, and the workforce is down to around 3,000. But the decline of Whaley Thorns pre-dated Mrs Thatcher. The local pit, Langwith, was shut in 1978, when Labour was still in power. "Tony Benn closed our pit, you know," says one former miner ruefully. Eighteen years on, the sum total of the Whaley Thorns regeneration package is half a dozen small industrial units close to the grassy mound that now covers the old slag heap — they employ seven people. Derelict houses line the two main streets, boarded up to prevent them from being vandalised. Where there were once 20 shops, now there are three: a post office, butcher's and a garage. "Welcome to the enterprise capital of Europe," says Eileen Goucher, the village's representative on Bolsover council. Ken Coates, the local Labour MEP, says that the problems go back to the days when the pit was working. "We tried to diversify, because lots of miners didn't want their lads to go down the pit. But Whitehall ruled that

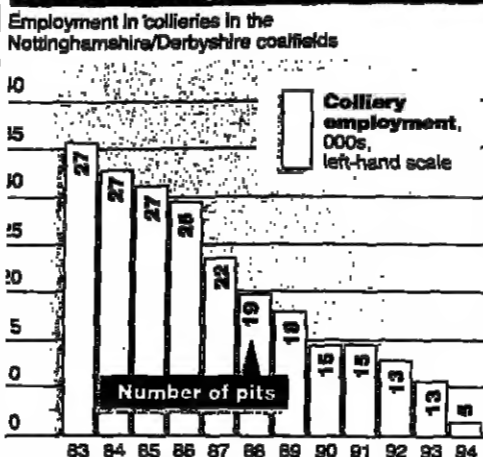
the need to preserve the mining labour force was more important." As such, career paths were easily mapped out. Men went down the pit, women went to work in the textile mill at Plesley, a few miles away. That, too, has closed, and the council is trying to turn the three huge buildings into smaller industrial units. "The market wasn't allowed to bring in work before," says Mr Coates. "There was state planning of the most arbitrary kind. The Government owes this community something." At the back of Mr Coates's mind is the fear that other

has seen how the ex-miners have started to take their children to school, just for something to do. In last summer's heatwave, Shirebrook's market square was thronged all day with former pitmen, sitting in the sun. Unemployment has brought with it the usual social problems. "We have inner city deprivation without the ethnicity," says John Young, headteacher at Shirebrook Community School. Over the past five years, the school has made great strides. The atmosphere is warm, attendance records and exam results have shown a marked

brook, against a national average of 70 per cent. Some pupils are travelling to Lincolnshire, where they can bring in a few vital pounds by working in the fields. Mr Young says he is not sure whether anyone in Whaley Thorns has a full-time job. "I want to make sure that Shirebrook doesn't go the same way. At the moment the community is showing a lot of inner strength." Bolsover council believes that a modern communications network would kick-start the redevelopment project. "The former pits provide ideal sites for industrial es-

ter of those aged between 16 and 44 were working full time, while in the 45-plus age group only 15 per cent had full-time jobs. Almost 30 per cent of those aged between 46 and 65 were not working. Hardly surprisingly, optimism is a scarce commodity. Three out of every four people in Shirebrook expect no change in the village's fortunes or expect the rate of decline to speed up. For those determined that the 10,000-strong community shall not die, this mood of despair is what needs to be tackled first. "People have lost confidence in what people say. They have even lost confidence in themselves. They appear to have very little hope of the future," says Steve Fritchley, a Bolsover councillor and chairman of the development trust set up to help revitalise the area with financial backing from the local Training and Enterprise Council. As with every other run-down post-industrial district in Britain, the emphasis is on aggressive marketing and an unceasing search for investors, however small, that might be looking to relocate. "We've got to treat Shirebrook as Shirebrook plc. We can sit back and wait for Toyota to appear, but it isn't going to happen. We have got to get off our arses and get stuck in, or Shirebrook is going to disappear." "We want expanding businesses. We don't want to poach them off somebody else. That wouldn't be fair. The image of Shirebrook is of a Wild West mining town about to become a ghost town. But it has less vandalism and less crime than some of the surrounding areas. It's an attractive place when the sun comes out."

After King Coal



parts of North-east Derbyshire could go the way of Whaley Thorns. Three other pits in the district — Creswell, Plesley and Shirebrook — shut as part of Michael Heseltine's privatisation and closure plan announced in autumn 1992. Already, there have been worrying signs. Mr Fotherby

improvement, international prowess in cross-country has boosted the self-esteem of pupils and links have been forged with Sheffield University to demonstrate the advantages of staying on for higher and further education. Even so, while staying-on rates at 16 are picking up, they are only 38 per cent at Shire-

brook and there is no shortage of willing labour. But moving goods in and out is a real problem, and time has a corrosive impact on both skills and motivation. An audit by Shirebrook and District Development Trust illustrates the extent of the problem. In a sample of more than 2,500 adults, only a quar-

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A flaw in my soup

20

Roger Cowe

IT HAS been clear for some time that the business world is somewhat confused by the issue of minimum wages. Officially, institutions like the Confederation of British Industry are horrified by interventionism such as the European Union's Social Chapter. And business organisations are forever warning about the dangers (to business) of overpaying staff. A survey of catering industry management, published this week, suggests that the eminent managers interviewed are even confused about their own businesses, never mind broad issues such as minimum wages. Catering is a notoriously low-paid industry, especially considering the long and unsocial hours worked by many chefs, waiters and

others. Trade unions have campaigned long and fruitlessly to change that situation, and berated companies for their failure to pay living wages. Yet according to the research, managers in the industry agree that they should be paid more. This finding is staggering enough. Why don't these bosses just pay more? One reason may be evident in another, more alarming, conclusion — the bosses don't have much idea what they pay their staff in the first place. The survey, carried out by a catering staff agency, a shortage of workers is the biggest problem for the industry. It received 30 per cent of the votes, way ahead of bosses' traditional worries about profits and legislation. Then, two-thirds of the managers said that catering wages were not high enough. But almost three-quarters of them underestimated what they actually pay their staff. For example, the agency says kitchen porters in central London get £4.30 an hour. But the managers thought they were paid £3.50. And they underestimated the pay of a silver service waitress by a similar amount — £4.50 an hour against £3.48. The confusion among

those who run the industry is further evidenced in their views on a minimum wage. Since most of the managers think their staff are paid too little (even though they are paid more than they think) the obvious solution would seem to be to pay more. And a fifth of those asked agreed that this would help bring higher quality staff into catering. On the other hand, despite the current staff shortages, a quarter said higher wages would lead to more unemployment. Despite these worries, a third want a minimum wage to be imposed by government, while almost half think the solution is for a voluntary minimum agreed by the industry. But then one in three of these confused people said that the answer to the industry's staff problems was tighter immigration controls. These surveys are always suspect, of course, since the questions are usually designed to elicit the answers desired by the sponsors, and telephone questioning is notoriously unreliable. And there is one question which clearly should have been included — in the section asking about the industry's problems, one option should have been "management".

Quick Crossword No 8159

DEVASTATE A B
R V E E CURE
ENDOWMENT T F
E W P D TOFU
E F DETER M D
DRIVER DIBALD
U S C G T L
COLOUR SHIRING
E V YACHT G O
TURN S A F F S
I M STIMULATE
OPAL E E E Y
N N ORADUATED

Solution No. 8158

Across
1 Politician's badge of ribbons (7)
8 Abstract idea (7)
9 Cut short (7)
10 Artist's workshop (7)
11 Oust! (5)
13 Scent factory (9)
15 State of remaining firmly fixed (9)
18 Gambled — cut into cubes (5)
21 Illegal (7)
22 Party gangster (7)
23 Disorderly struggle (7)
24 Malicious hostility (7)

Down
1 Decorative frieze (5)
2 Romp (5)

3 Eating place for lorry drivers (9,4)
4 Finger-shaped cake (6)
5 Borrowing without collateral (9,4)
6 Pollute — a narrow pass (6)
7 Floor of building (6)
12 Empty — make invalid (4)
14 Not often seen (4)
15 In the middle of (6)

16 Very light gas (6)
17 Situated underground (6)
19 Stringed instrument (5)
20 Raise objections (5)

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